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Open Meetings Act case advances

3 New Buffalo council members accused of meeting in private

By SCOTT AIKEN
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — A judge has denied a motion by three New Buffalo City Council members to dismiss charges of violating the state Open Meetings Act.

Berrien County Trial Court Judge Gary Bruce after a hearing Monday rejected a defense claim that the prosecutor failed to include everything that's required in the criminal complaint.

A trial date on the misdemeanor charges for council members Donna Messinger, George Scarlatis and Peter Weber is to be scheduled.

They are accused of violating the open meetings statute by meeting in private on Aug. 6 to plan the firing of City Manager Rusty Geisler.

The city council during a contentious 5 1/2-hour meeting on Aug. 18 voted 3-2 to fire Geisler, with Messinger, Scarlatis and Weber casting the yes votes. If found guilty of the alleged open meeting violation, they would each face fines of up to $1,000.

Councilman Don Hatfield and Chuck Kramet-bauer voted against dismissing Geisler.

During Monday's hearing on a motion to dismiss the charges, defense attorney Anne Buckleitner, who represents the three accused council members, claimed there is "zero" evidence of wrongdoing.

The case was investigated by the Berrien County Sheriff's Department. The probe cleared Weber and Scarlatis of allegations of violations of residency requirements set in the New Buffalo City Charter.

Buckleitner told the court that the council members are being charged, although they were carrying out their responsibilities in a human resources matter.

"It's a political exercise by the criminal justice system," she said.

Bruce said the strength of the case does not matter at this time.

"It's irrelevant at this point whether they have a good case or not," the judge said. "That's why we're going to trial."

Bruce advised the three defendants that they have a right to continue to be represented by the same lawyer as the case proceeds to trial.

But unforeseen conflicts could arise and cause harm to any or all of the defendants' defense, Bruce said.

Ideally, each of the three should have his or her own lawyer, Bruce said, and the defendants could have the time they needed to decide.

Contact: saiken@TheHP.com. (269) 932-0358. Twitter: @HPAiken

Louise Wrege / HP staff

Tito Franklin of Benton Harbor and his wife, Angelique Hines, take it one day at a time as Franklin battles an unknown degenerative muscular disease.

His glass is always half full

Tito Franklin keeps his spirits up despite a life of hardship

By LOUISE WREGE
HP Staff Writer

BENTON HARBOR — Only 40, Tito Franklin of Benton Harbor is bedbound and on a ventilator. But he keeps in good spirits and encourages others to take a similar optimistic view.

"I just live day by day," he said Friday. "Just enjoy the time that you have."

His wife, Angelique Hines, confirms Tito's bright outlook on life.

"He doesn't let anything get him down," she said.

No one would begrudge Franklin or Hines if they allowed their circumstances to get them down.

Doctors remain puzzled over exactly what Franklin has. He said at various points in his life, he's been diagnosed with cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis and Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS). But every diagnosis turned out to be wrong.

"They don't know what I have," he said.

Franklin has had medical problems all of his life and at age 16, he began using a wheelchair to get around.

In spite of his health issues, he graduated from Coloma High School in 1992. He met Hines at her sister's birthday party in 1997. They married two years later on her sister's birthday to honor how they met.

After they were first married, Franklin helped take care of Hines' sons from a previous relationship, who were 5 and 8, while she supported the family working at two jobs.

"Even though he was in a wheelchair, he still could do things like washing the dishes. He was managing the boys to get them to clean up and to do different things," Hines said.

But as time wore on, Franklin has been able to do less and less. For the past two years he has only left the house to go to the hospital.

Hines started getting sicker in January 2012.

"He couldn't breathe. He'd stay in the hospital for one or two weeks and then every other month, it was continuous. And they really didn't know what was going on," she said.

Over the summer of 2012, he was put on machine to help him breathe at night.

On July 31, 2012, Franklin was sleeping with his breathing mask on while she was watching television, when she heard a strange noise.

"I said, 'Tito, are you OK?'"

When he didn't answer, she took the mask off and saw that he was not breathing. Her son called 911 and they talked her through how to do CPR until the ambulance arrived.

"They said his breathing muscles have weakened so from that time, they put him on the ventilator," she said.

They went through the Area Agency on Aging in St. Joseph to find funding for his care so he could stay at home.

"Once he started getting sicker and sicker, I couldn't bring (myself) to put him in a nursing home or a group home," she said. "I know life throws you a curve ball. You've just got to roll with it."

Health care workers look after Franklin from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. seven days a week while Hines works at the Readiness Center in Benton Harbor and takes care of other business.

"I take care of it from there," she said.

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Gov. Snyder vetoes air gun, liquor license bills

By DAVID EGGERT
Associated Press

LANSING — Gov. Rick Snyder on Monday vetoed bills that would have loosened licensing restrictions on air guns and lowered certain liquor license fees, saying lawmakers failed to pass related gun measures and address the loss of up to $600,000 in liquor fee revenue.

The National Rifle Association-backed air gun legislation was made up of seven bills that would have ended Michigan's status as one of just four states to classify most pellet guns as firearms and limited local governments' ability to set their own rules over the "pneumatic" guns. Snyder said four Senate-initiated bills reached his desk while three House-sponsored measures that were part of the package never won approval from the Senate.

Signing a portion of the package would have resulted in a number of inconsistencies in state law, Snyder said in a letter to senators.

"In short, the enactment of these four Senate bills would result in a situation that would be extremely confusing for both law enforcement and gun owners," he wrote.

A spokeswoman for Republican Senate Majority Leader Randy

See **BILLS**, page A8

Being uninsured in America will cost more

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Being uninsured in America will cost you more in 2015.

It's the first year all taxpayers have to report to the Internal Revenue Service whether they had health insurance for the previous year, as required under President Barack Obama's law. Those who were uninsured face fines, unless they qualify for one of about 30 exemptions, most of which involve financial hardships.

Dayna Dayson of Phoenix estimates that she'll have to pay the taxman $290 when she files her federal return. Dayson, who's in her early 30s, works in marketing and doesn't have a lot left over each month after housing, transportation and other fixed costs. She'd like health insurance but she couldn't afford it in 2014, as required by the law.

"It's touted as this amazing thing, but right now, for me, it doesn't fit into my budget," she said.

Ryan Moon of Des Moines, Iowa, graduated from college in 2013 with a bachelor's in political science, and is still hunting for a permanent job with benefits. He expects to pay a fine of $95. A supporter of the health care law, he feels conflicted about its insurance mandate and fines.

"I hate the idea that you have to pay a penalty, but at the same time, it helps other people," said Moon, who's in his early 20s. "It really helps society, but society has to be forced to help society."

Going without health insurance has always involved financial risks. You could have an accident and end up with thousands of dollars in medical bills. Now, you may also get fined. In a decision that allowed Obama's law to advance, the Supreme Court ruled in 2012 that the coverage requirement and its accompanying fines were a constitutionally valid exercise of Congress' authority to tax.

In 2015, all taxpayers have to report to the IRS on their health insurance status the previous year. Most will check a box. It's also when the IRS starts collecting

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Weather

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Arabs endorse UN resolution to end Israel's occupation

By EDITH M. LEDERER
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Arab ambassadors on Monday endorsed Palestinian amendments to a U.N. resolution that would call for an end to Israel's occupation within three years, a proposal strongly opposed by Israel and the United States and virtually certain to be defeated.

Jordan's U.N. Ambassador Dina Kawar, the Arab representative on the Security Council, told reporters after the closed-door meeting of the 22 Arab envoys that the revised text would be submitted to the council later Monday.

The draft resolution, obtained by The Associated Press, affirms the urgent need to achieve "a just, lasting and comprehensive peaceful solution" to the decades-old Palestinian-Israeli conflict within 12 months and sets a Dec. 31, 2017 deadline for Israel's occupation to end.

It calls for an independent state of Palestine to be established within the June 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and security arrangements "including through a third-party presence." It demands "a just solution" to all other outstanding issues including Palestinian refugees, prisoners in Israeli jails and water.

Even if the resolution musters the minimum nine required "yes" votes, the United States, Israel's closest ally, is certain to veto it if necessary. The U.S. insists there must be a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Kawar said the Palestinian and Jordanian leaders would be contacting each other Monday "to find the best time to cast the vote in the Security Council on the amended version."

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said before the Arab group met that the revised resolution would be submitted Monday and voted on Tuesday.

The Palestinian U.N. Ambassador Riyad Mansour told reporters after the meeting that a vote "could happen tomorrow, or the day after tomorrow." But Kawar, when asked whether the vote could be put off until after Jan. 1 said: "Everything is possible." Five newly elected members joining the Security Council on Thursday are considered more supportive of the Palestinians than the five members leaving the council and could give them the nine "yes" votes to force a U.S. veto.

U.S. State Department spokesman Jeff Rathke told reporters in Washington on Monday that the new draft resolution "is not something that we would support, and other countries share the same concerns that we have."

"We think it sets arbitrary deadlines for reaching a peace agreement and for Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank, and those are more likely to curtail useful negotiations than to bring them to a successful conclusion," Rathke said. "Further, we think that the resolution fails to account for Israel's legitimate security needs."

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement Monday that if the Security Council doesn't reject the resolution, "we will."

The Palestinian Authority is "seeking to impose on us a diktat that would undermine Israel's security, put its future in peril," he said. "Israel will oppose conditions that endanger our future."

Netanyahu said Israel expects at least "the responsible members" of the international community to vigorously oppose the resolution "because what we need always is direct negotiations and not imposed conditions."

Mansour, the Palestinian envoy, has said the Palestinians can't return "to the same cycle of failed negotiations," which he says Israel uses to entrench its occupation. He has urged international support for the resolution setting a 2017 deadline for a complete Israeli withdrawal.

The Palestinians initially circulated a draft resolution on Oct. 1 asking the council to set a deadline of November 2016 for an Israeli withdrawal from all Palestinian territory occupied since 1967. France had been working for a U.N. resolution aimed at restarting Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations, setting a two-year deadline for success.

Lotteries

Monday drawings

Michigan
Poker Lotto
8C-9C-10H-7S-9S
Midday Daily 3
0-7-1
Midday Daily 4
3-4-1-1
Daily 3
3-5-6
Daily 4
7-1-2-6
Fantasy 5
02-04-12-14-25
Keno
01-14-15-16-23-26-33-34-37-40-42-51-52-56-57-64-72-74-75-76-77-80
Indiana
Quick Draw Midday
01-10-13-17-18-19-24-28-29-34-35-55-61-62-64-65-67-72-77-80
Daily Three-Midday
2-6-4
Daily Four-Midday
7-7-4-0
Illinois
Hit or Miss Midday
01-02-04-05-07-08-10-11-14-20-22-24, GLN : 3
Hit or Miss Morning
01-05-07-08-09-11-13-16-18-20-23-24, GLN : 4
LuckyDay Lotto Midday
04-13-21-26-36
Pick Three-Midday
9-5-0, Fireball: 6
Pick Four-Midday
9-1-7-1, Fireball: 9

Sunday evening drawings

Michigan
Poker Lotto
10C-2H-7H-2S-6S
Daily 3
9-9-4
Daily 4
3-4-1-9
Fantasy 5
03-20-29-34-37
Keno
04-05-07-25-28-29-30-31-32-44-45-46-48-54-57-60-62-66-71-73-76-80
Indiana
Cash 5
15-18-19-23-34
Poker Lotto
3C-4C-9C-6H-4S
Daily Three-Evening
9-9-2
Daily Four-Evening
1-7-0-0
Quick Draw Evening
10-15-17-21-24-27-30-31-32-37-46-47-50-54-59-64-68-72-75-77
Illinois
Hit or Miss Drive
03-06-07-10-11-12-16-17-18-21-23-24, GLN : 5
Hit or Miss Evening
01-02-08-09-10-12-13-16-17-18-20-21, GLN : 4
Pick Three-Evening
3-5-7, Fireball: 8
Pick Four-Evening
6-2-7-4, Fireball: 5
Lucky Day Lotto
14-15-19-29-42
Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: $172 million

– *The Associated Press*

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The Herald-Palladium

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Volume 129, Number 364

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The Herald-Palladium is printed for your convenience with low-ruboff soy ink and with newsprint containing recycled paper.

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The Herald-Palladium is published daily, Mondays through Sundays, at 3450 Hollywood Road, St. Joseph, MI and is a consolidation of The Herald-Press and The News-Palladium. Periodicals Mail postage paid at St. Joseph, MI (USPS 387-440). Postmaster: Send change of address to P.O. Box 128, St. Joseph, MI 49085. Member of The Associated Press and The Audit Bureau of Circulations.

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Liberia reports dozens of new Ebola cases on border

By JONATHAN PAYE-LAYLEH
Associated Press

MONROVIA, Liberia — Dozens of new Ebola cases have erupted in Liberia, near the border with Sierra Leone, Liberian health officials warned Monday, marking a setback amid recent improvements.

The flare-up is due to a number of factors including people going in and out of Liberia and traditional practices such as the washing of bodies, said Liberia's Assistant Health Minister Tolbert Nyenswah.

Forty-nine cases were reported in in western Grand Cape Mount County between December 1 and 25, Nyenswah told state radio.

"In a very small population, an increase in the number of (Ebola) cases raises high level of concerns that we need to take very seriously as people of Liberia and people of Grand Cape Mount in particular," he said.

About 3,400 people have died from Ebola in Liberia over the past year with nearly 8,000 cases total, though health officials say the situation has improved, especially in the capital, Monrovia.

Sierra Leone, in comparison, has now eclipsed Liberia with more than 9,400 Ebola cases, according to the World Health Organization.

Overall, more than 20,000 Ebola illnesses and nearly 8,000 deaths have been reported this year in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

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$1.99 +Dep

Nabisco
Wheat Thins
5.5-9.5oz
Triscuits
7.6-9oz
Snack Crackers
6.5-8oz)
$1.99

Spartan
2% Reduced Fat Milk
$2.79 Gallon

Digiorno Pizza 18-34.2 oz
California Pizza Kitchen 12.7-17.6oz
Tombstone Pizza
22.9-28.5 oz
2/$11

Fresh Express
Iceberg Garden Salad
11oz
10/$10

Idaho
Baking Potatoes
3lb bag
10/$10

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Boars Head Sweet Slicing Ham or Vermont Cheddar Cheese
$9.99 lb.

In The Bakery
French Bread
$1.99 Loaf

Miller Lite, GD or 64 or Coors or Molson Canadian
24 pack, 12 oz Cans
$15.99 +Dep

Skating away the day

Andrew Lersten / HP staff

These two girls were among the ice skaters at South Haven's municipal ice rink on Monday, taking advantage of Christmas break and mild winter weather. However, colder temps are expected today and Wednesday before a slight warm-up for the start of the new year.

Marcus Schweigert, 7, from Redmond, Wash., rides a Silver Beach Carousel tiger decked out for winter on Monday. The popular St. Joseph attraction celebrates its fifth birthday this weekend with special activities based on the Disney movie "Frozen," including a costume party and an indoor snowball fight.

John Matuszak / HP Staff

What a ride: 5 years and counting

Silver Beach Carousel celebrates 5th birthday with "Frozen" party

By JOHN MATUSZAK
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — When Suz Schalon, president of the Silver Beach Carousel Society, thinks back on the past five years, it makes her head spin.

"Wow!" is the reaction from Schalon to the popular attraction's first half-decade, which will be celebrated this weekend with a fifth birthday party with activities based on the Disney movie "Frozen."

That "wow" response is fitting, since Schalon's hope prior to the Jan. 2, 2010 opening was to create a "wow factor" for children and families visiting the carousel.

The carousel's operators estimate that as many as 1 million people have ridden its horses and other animal figures, including wedding parties and others attending events at the Shadowland Ballroom, part of the Silver Beach Center with the Curious Kids Museum Discovery Zone.

"It makes a memory and it brings back a memory" for those who recall the Silver Beach amusement park, which closed in 1971, and similar lakeside venues, Schalon said. "You don't make a memory playing a video game. You make a memory by doing something together."

It's also apropos that the party will have the "Frozen" theme, as the carousel debuted amid a blizzard. But it still hosted 1,500 riders the first day.

The carousel has added memorabilia, games, a photo booth, a concession stand and a miniature train since then. But in 2010 it was the 48 unique figures – from a Benton Harbor tiger to a praying mantis to a pink flamingo – that brought people through the doors.

"We just had the carousel, and people responded," Schalon said. "And they're still responding."

A look at the guest book shows visitors from around the world expressing their enjoyment, from as far away as China and the Phillipines.

"People tell us it is the most beautiful carousel in the world, and it is," said Pat Fisk, a carousel board member and volunteer coordinator.

It wasn't always a smooth ride getting to this point.

The idea for restoring the original Silver Beach carousel was first presented in 1997. But the horses were later sold and relocated to Washington.

February 2003 was a watershed moment as the carousel society made a commitment with Carousel Works of Mansfield, Ohio to create new figures. Ground was broken in 2008 as planners moved forward with a design that included the Whirlpool Compass Fountain.

At one point, they had to cut $1.5 million from the construction budget as material costs skyrocketed. There was even a glitch with the electrical permit just as they were readying to open the doors.

"There was no how-to manual. It's a good thing we didn't know what we didn't know," Schalon said. "I think the three things that made it happen were determination, optimism and enthusiasm. And those are still the qualities that are carrying us through."

The Silver Beach Carousel Society has since written the book on how to get such a project off the ground, and keep it moving. It has lent its hard-earned expertise to similar projects, including a recently unveiled carousel in Cleveland.

Schalon said the biggest surprise for her has been how the Silver Beach Center has become "a little mini visitors bureau" and the gateway for the rest of Michigan, as visitors are directed to restaurants, shops, motels and other attractions throughout the region.

But the real reward continues to be the smiles and laughter from kids big and small.

"It's a misconception that it's only for children," Schalon said. "We say it's an adult amusement park, and we allow the children to ride."

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Peter Bennett, of Niles, waits to take a ride on the Silver Beach Carousel in St. Joseph with his granddaughter, Lydia Gilbert, on Monday. The popular attraction will celebrate its fifth birthday with a "Frozen"-themed party this Friday through Sunday.

John Matuszak / HP Staff

'Frozen' frolic

- The birthday party kicks off from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday with dress-up day. Kids in costume as their favorite "Frozen" character or in any costume will receive a free carousel ride.
- The snowball toss will take place in the Shadowland Ballroom from 1-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, with teams playfully pelting each other with plush orbs. There will be a special area for kids 5 and under.
- The movie "Frozen" will be shown Friday and Saturday, there will be sing-alongs, games such as Pin the Carrot Nose on Olaf, and give-aways of Kilwin's ice cream coupons. There will be "treat rides" with gifts for the lucky kid whose carousel figure stops in the right spot, and prize drawings.
- For information, visit www.silverbeachcarousel.com.

Attorney examining procedure for charter changes

By ANDREW LERSTEN
HP Staff Writer

COLOMA — The Coloma City Commission has asked for a legal review of what it would take to update or amend the city charter, last revised in 1993.

The commission this month voted 5-2 to have attorney Jessica Fette study what procedures would be required to make any changes to the charter.

Commissioner Bill Smith said that it's his understanding any charter changes would have to be approved by city voters.

What's he's not certain of, however, is whether the city would have to first set up an ad hoc committee to study the charter and propose changes.

"This is simply the first step," Smith said. "It's long overdue."

Smith favors changing the charter to allow for only one monthly commission meeting, instead of the two meetings now required.

"We don't need two meetings a month," he said. "We would still be able to hold a special meeting, if we called for one."

It's possible that for minor changes such as the meetings requirement, a charter committee may not be needed at all, Smith said.

Voting to send the charter to the lawyer to start the process were Smith and Commissioners Mike Muenchow, Linda Freitag, Marsha Hammond and Jason Hicks.

Mayor Jim Polashak and Commissioner Kent Churchill voted "no."

"Personally, I don't think it's going to be worth the money we're going to spend to look into the charter. I think it's wasting taxpayers' money," Churchill said.

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Three Oaks offices moving in early 2015

By SCOTT AIKEN
HP Staff Writer

THREE OAKS — Early in 2015, offices of the Village of Three Oaks are being moved into a building at 21 N. Elm St. owned by Berrien County.

The county Board of Commissioners recently approved a five-year lease with the village for 1,856 square feet of space in the professional building. The village's cost will be $7,442 a year.

Village Manager Adam Umbrasas said officials hope to complete the move in February.

"It gives us more space and storage area," he said. "We've outgrown our current facility."

The officers of the manager, clerk, utility department, Village Council meeting room and other administrative functions will make the move.

The village hall at 14 E. Maple St. is to be occupied by the School of American Music, a non-profit organization that plans to open an arts and education center in the space.

The village police department, next door to the village hall, will remain in its current offices.

The county building, originally the Bank of Three Oaks, was built in the 1920s. About half of the 6,200-square-foot structure is occupied by the Berrien County Health Department.

Other tenants are Dave Majerek's State Farm Insurance agency and the Pokagon-New Buffalo Area Local Revenue Sharing Board.

In preparation for the village offices moving in, the county's Building and Grounds Department gave the space a facelift with paint, new carpet, alterations, along with upgrades in the heating, cooling and ventilation system.

The improvements totaled about $17,878, according to the lease resolution approved by the county board.

The building was formerly used by a Berrien County Fifth District Court magistrate. The court shut down the magistrate's office several years ago because of low level of demand for services.

County Administrator Bill Wolf said the county is committed to providing health department services in the southwest part of the county.

"Whether we own the building or someone else owns the building, the health department is there to stay," Wolf said.

Before the village offices can move, Wolf said, work on the heating-cooling system must be completed, but the February target date should not be a problem.

The School of American Music has major plans as it plans to move into the former Village Hall, which will become the Three Oaks Arts & Education Center.

The school now uses space on the second floor of the Three Oaks Township Public Library.

The new building will allow the school to do expand programming to include classes for young children, yoga and other offerings. Other proposals are to add dance, a recording studio, painting, crafts, movies and chess, according to Garth Taylor, the school's founder.

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Gunman robs Phoenix Country Market

By ANDREW LERSTEN
HP Staff Writer

SOUTH HAVEN — A lone gunman robbed the Phoenix Country Market store in Geneva Township Sunday night and made off with an undetermined amount of cash, Van Buren County Sheriff's Lt. David Walker said.

The suspect came into the store at 68150 County Road 388 around 8:30 p.m., pulled out a handgun and demanded cash.

He was described as a black man with light complexion, in his early 20s, about 5-foot-5, 150 pounds, and wearing a black mask over his mouth and nose. He was also wearing dark jeans, black shoes and gloves, a black hooded jacket and a blue winter hat. No description of a vehicle was available.

Police brought in a tracking dog but could not find the suspect. Anyone with helpful information on the case is urged to call the sheriff's department at 657-3101, Crime Stoppers at 1-800-342-7867, or Silent Observer at 343-2100.

Contact: alersten@TheHP.com, 932-0357, Twitter @HPLersten

Miss/Mr. Coloma contests set for Saturday

Submitted photo

The Miss and Mr. Coloma contests will take place Saturday evening at the Mendel Center, starting at 6 p.m. Tickets are $18. Call Barb Stoder at 468-3731 for more information. Boys pictured in the back are: (all identifications are left to right): Darven Santana, Luke Alsup, Antonio Tavolacci, Jason Clark, Wayne Seabury, Lane Alsup and Vanghan Radde; in the middle row are: Allison Feldten, Natasha Morris, Katie Santarlas, Jackie Zvonar and Madison Cullitan; sitting in front are: Haylee Adams, Shyann Mazigian, Macy Welche and Dana Jenkins.

St. Charles museum adds restored caboose to its collection

By MIKE KOURY
The Saginaw News

ST. CHARLES, Mich. — Nearly 30 years ago, a James Township family made an unusual purchase: a full-sized train caboose.

Today, after extensive renovation, the caboose has been sold and moved to the St. Charles Area Museum for public display.

Carol Bray purchased the caboose in 1986 after a suggestion by her father, Ralph Garlick, who used to work at Railway Express delivering mail.

Bray told The Saginaw News (http://bit.ly/13kPida) that she went to Flint to check out the caboose a couple times before purchasing it, bringing Garlick along once to inspect it, who said it was a good deal because of the potbellied stove inside it.

Garlick never got a chance to see it in Bray's backyard, as he passed away before the caboose was moved to their home.

Bray continued to renovate the caboose, sandblasting and staining it to look like its original condition when it was built in 1941.

The renovations were finished in either 2001 or 2002, and Bray said she would use it at Christmas time and light it up with decorations.

Bray said she was approached by Jim Palmer, owner of the St. Charles Area Museum, about two years ago to see if she was interested in selling it.

"I had no (plans) of selling it until ... Joe came knocking at the door," she said.

Palmer said he casually mentioned to a friend he was thinking about buying a caboose, when he was told that Bray owned one.

What decided that she was going to sell the caboose, Bray said, was that St. Charles was going to keep it in its original condition and make it something people can come and learn about its history.

"My fear was always having it made into a popcorn stand or an ice cream (stand) or something like that," she said.

"My intention of restoring the caboose was always to keep it in its original condition. So it could be... appreciated by the younger generations."

The caboose was lifted off its wheels and put on the flatbed of a semi-truck, while the wheels were moved separately and placed on the train tracks at the museum for the caboose to be placed.

Palmer said all the money used to purchase the caboose was raised through grants and donations, including a $10,000 donation from the estate of Josie Manzoni, who passed away earlier this year, which helped get them to the $25,000 needed to purchase the caboose.

"We're looking to show people what it was," he said. "It's going to be well taken care of.

"For what the trains were back in the 40's...they were an important entity at one time."

Reward in Detroit-area teen's slaying increased by $100,000

DETROIT (AP) — Authorities said Monday the reward for information that solves the killing of a 16-year-old Grosse Pointe Farms girl who was shot as she and friends rode in a car in Detroit has been increased to $110,000.

Paige Stalker was killed Dec. 22 when a gunman sprayed the car in which she was a front-seat passenger with at least 30 shots. Three other teenage passengers also were wounded.

Police and the Detroit Crime Commission said $100,000 is now offered in addition to an earlier $10,000 reward offer. The private agency serves as a liaison between the public and law enforcement.

Commission Director Andy Arena, the retired head of the FBI's Detroit office, said the money is from families that know the victims and want to remain anonymous.

He said the donors contacted the commission Sunday and said they "want this crime solved." He said it's one of the largest rewards he's seen.

"They know us, they have a history with us and, quite frankly, they trust us with handling their money," Arena said. "We're usually not involved in rewards ... and this is probably a one-time deal for us."

Police Capt. Eric Decker said the crime "didn't happen in a bubble.

"People know about this incident," Decker said. "There are people talking. There are people who probably witnessed it, who have knowledge. We need that information."

Lyon named interim head of human services agency

LANSING (AP) — The man in charge of Michigan's community health agency has been tapped to also lead the state Department of Human Services on an interim basis.

Nick Lyon was named the agency's director by Gov. Rick Snyder on Monday. He replaces Maura Corrigan, an ex-state Supreme Court justice who's retiring after four years.

The Human Services Department covers child welfare and public assistance programs.

Snyder says Corrigan was a "fierce advocate" for residents, especially children. He credits her for launching a program to bring social service caseworkers into schools and improving the child welfare system.

Michigan recently asked a judge to end oversight of the system.

Lyon began leading the Community Health Department in September. No timetable has been set for finding a permanent director of the Human Services agency.

www.THEHP.com

Ex-Green Party hopeful gets probation in protest

BATTLE CREEK (AP) — An ex-Green Party candidate for U.S. Senate who was convicted of illegally protesting a new oil pipeline has received a two-month suspended jail sentence in a Battle Creek courtroom.

Christopher Wahmhoff was convicted Dec. 16 of resisting police and trespassing. In June 2013, the 36-year-old Kalamazoo man spent about 10 hours inside an open pipe in Calhoun County's Fredonia Township.

The pipeline was under construction for Enbridge Inc., the Calgary, Alberta, company whose ruptured pipeline spilled 800,000 gallons of oil into the Kalamazoo River system in 2010.

Calhoun County Circuit Judge James Kingsley sentenced Wahmhoff Monday, also placing him on one year's probation.

Enbridge and emergency responders say the protest cost them several thousand dollars.

In brief

Butane explosion sends 4 to hospital

GALIEN — Police were called to investigate an explosion in a trailer near Galien on Sunday after burn victims showed up at an area hospital.

The Berrien County Sheriff's Department said some people were trying to fill a butane tank when it exploded. It happened at about 3:50 p.m. at a trailer on Jeffrey Road near Spring Creek Road in Galien Township. The owner of the trailer, Matthew Forker, had already been treated for burns and released.

Three other people had gone to Lakeland Community Hospital in Niles and had been transferred to a Kalamazoo hospital. Police said Lakeland would not release the people's names to the investigating officers.

BH house fire causes $50,000 in damage

BENTON HARBOR — A fire at a house in Benton Harbor Monday morning caused as estimated $50,000 in damage to the two-story structure.

Steve Johnson, fire marshal for the Benton Harbor Department of Public Safety, said the fire started in the kitchen area of the home, but the cause has not been determined. The house at 1011 Bishop Ave. belongs to the Benton Harbor Housing Commission and is rented by Belinda Carter, Johnson said. No one was home at the time of the fire, he said.

The fire department was called at about 8:25 a.m. after a passer-by saw smoke coming from the house.

Johnson said the fire was out relatively quickly but there was heavy heat and smoke damage throughout the house.

Paw Paw man resists arrest

PAW PAW — Things went from bad to worse early Sunday for a Paw Paw man who decided to fight the police after crashing his car.

The man, 24, was arrested for alleged drunk driving and resisting and obstructing police following the 1:30 a.m. incident on County Road 653 in rural Almena Township, Van Buren County Sheriff's Sgt. Ron Douglas said. The man was not injured.

SJ Township tree pick-up Jan. 12-15

ST. JOSEPH — Best-Way will pick up Christmas trees in St. Joseph Township during the week of Jan. 12-15.

Best-Way instructs residents to leave trees at the roadside for pick up on the normally scheduled trash pick-up day. For more information, call 429-7703.

Prosecutor: Suspect in gun death also robbed woman

DETROIT (AP) — Prosecutors say a 19-year-old man accused of accidentally killing a 16-year-old friend while playing with a stolen revolver in Detroit also robbed a woman at gunpoint three days earlier.

Dwayne Sharper Jr. was arraigned Monday on manslaughter, firearms and armed robbery charges. A judge ordered him jailed until a Jan. 7 hearing.

Authorities say that Sharper shot Bernard Walker in the head on Christmas in the basement of a home in the Virginia Park neighborhood near downtown Detroit. Walker died the next day.

The Wayne County prosecutor's office says that Sharper also used a stolen gun to rob a woman in her driveway in the same neighborhood Dec. 22.

Defense lawyer William J. Winters III says he just got the case says his client "maintains his innocence."

Clergy, officials urge gunfire-free New Year's Eve

DETROIT (AP) — Ministers, police and politicians have come together to urge Detroit residents to forgo the dangerous local custom of firing guns into the air on New Year's Eve.

The Rev. Nicholas Hood III hosted Monday's announcement of the 17th annual campaign called "Ring in the New Year with a Bell, Not a Bang."

Detroit police Chief James Craig, Wayne County Sheriff Benny Napoleon, Deputy Mayor Ike McKinnon and four ministers joined Hood at Plymouth Church of Christ.

Hood started the bell-ringing effort after Sandra Latham was killed in 1997 by a stray bullet while sitting in her dining room. Latham's relatives attended Monday's program.

Napoleon says he's donating 200 gun safety locks, and organizers say they're launching a campaign to make the Mother's Day weekend a gun-violence free holiday.

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FBI seeks 'ethical' hackers to be 'cyber special agents'

By BECKY YERAK
Chicago Tribune (TNS)

To battle hackers, you have to think like one.

The FBI said Monday it's seeking technology experts – including those with experience in "ethical hacking" – to become "cyber special agents."

"Cyber permeates every aspect of what we do, whether it's counterterrorism, criminal investigations or traditional cyberattacks, as we've seen in the recent past," the FBI said.

North Korea, for example, is at the center of a confrontation with the United States over the hacking of Sony Pictures. The hacking is believed tied to Sony's movie "The Interview" about the assassination of North Korea's leader.

"The FBI seeks highly talented, technically trained individuals who are motivated by the FBI's mission to protect our nation and the American people from the rapidly evolving cyber threat," Robert Anderson Jr., executive assistant director for the bureau's criminal, cyber, response and services branch, said in a statement Monday

In its job post, which is open until Jan. 20, the agency said it has "many vacancies" for cyber special agents.

Such agents, the FBI said, should have the skills to "conduct multifaceted investigations of high–tech crimes, including cyber–based terrorism, computer intrusions, online exploitation and major cyber fraud schemes."

Preferred backgrounds and work experiences include computer forensics, computer programming and "ethical hacking," according to the job posting. One way to get a resume to stand out at the FBI: Get certified in ethical hacking.

The EC–Council, which provides certification in information security and e–business fields, offers, for example, a "Certified Ethical Hacker" course as a way to get professionals to think like a hacker.

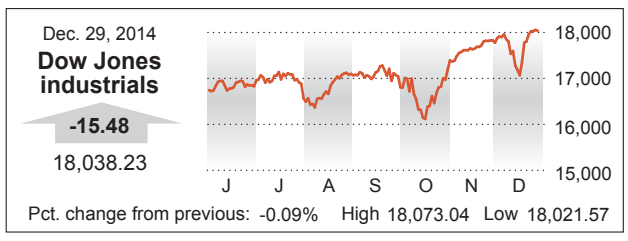
"To master the hacking technologies, you will need to become one," EC–Council says on its website. Students in the council's training will "scan, test, hack and secure their own systems."

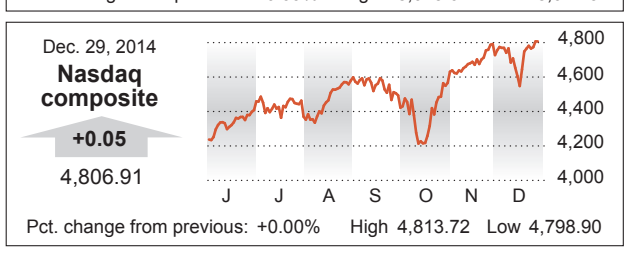
Some companies hire ethical hackers to try and bypass their own computer security systems. They aim to locate weak points that could be exploited by malicious hackers.

The annual salary range in the FBI's job posting is $59,340 to $76,568.

Prospective cyber special agents are expected to meet the same threshold as special agents. Key requirements to be a special agent include passing a background check and fitness test. Agents must be at least 23 and no older than 37.

Markets





Amer Elec Power AEP
$62.91 ▲ +.92 +1.5%
+8.4 +34.6

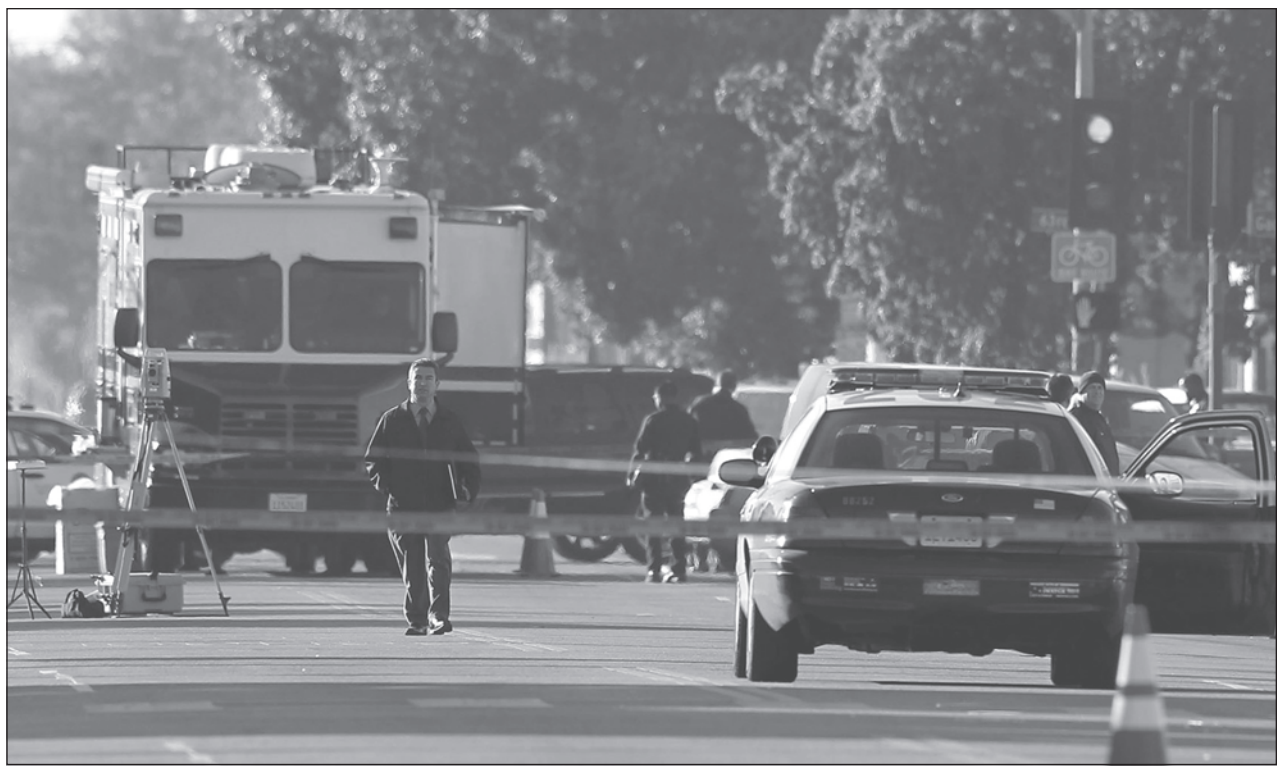
Whirlpool WHR
$193.03 ▲ +.58 +.3%
+4.1 +23.1

LocalStocks

NAME	TICKER	52-WK RANGE LO	HI	CLOSE	CHG	%CHG	WK	MO	QTR
AT&T Inc	T	31.74	37.48	**34.11**	**-.06**	-0.2	▼	▼	▼
AEP	AEP	45.80	62.39	**62.91**	**+.92**	+1.5	▲	▲	▲
Apple Inc s	AAPL	70.51	119.75	**113.91**	**-.08**	-0.1	▼	▼	▲
AutoZone	AZO	472.51	626.19	**624.49**	**+5.73**	+0.9	▲	▲	▲
BP PLC	BP	34.88	53.48	**39.03**	**+.05**	+0.1	▲	▼	▼
BonTon	BONT	6.59	17.59	**7.39**	**-.12**	-1.6	▼	▼	▼
CMS Eng	CMS	25.95	36.26	**36.42**	**+.33**	+0.9	▲	▲	▲
ChemFinl	CHFC	25.99	33.28	**30.94**	**+.21**	+0.7	▲	▲	▲
CocaCola	KO	36.89	45.00	**42.86**	**-.10**	-0.2	▼	▼	▲
Comcast	CMCSA	47.74	58.55	**58.88**	**+.49**	+0.8	▲	▲	▲
Deere	DE	78.88	94.89	**90.14**	**+.50**	+0.6	▲	▲	▲
Disney	DIS	69.85	95.31	**95.50**	**+.47**	+0.5	▲	▲	▲
ExxonMbl	XOM	86.19	104.76	**93.07**	**-.14**	-0.2	▼	▲	▼
FamilyDlr	FDO	55.64	80.97	**79.30**	**+.18**	+0.2	▲	▼	▲
FifthThird	FITB	17.65	23.90	**20.59**	**+.13**	+0.6	▲	▲	▲
1stSource	SRCE	27.56	34.99	**34.92**	**+.36**	+1.0	▲	▲	▲
FordM	F	13.26	18.12	**15.52**	**+.07**	+0.5	▲	▼	▲
GenElec	GE	23.69	28.09	**25.70**	**-.08**	-0.3	▼	▼	▲
Google A	GOOGL	497.19	615.03	**537.31**	**-4.21**	-0.8	▼	▼	▼
HomeDp	HD	73.96	104.38	**104.53**	**+.78**	+0.8	▲	▲	▲
HorizBcp	HBNC	19.38	26.75	**26.73**	**+.31**	+1.2	▲	▲	▲
HuntBncsh	HBAN	8.66	10.64	**10.70**	**+.13**	+1.2	▲	▲	▲
IDEX	IEX	65.91	81.82	**78.73**	**+.32**	+0.4	▲	▲	▲
IntegrysE	TEG	52.08	79.88	**80.62**	**+.79**	+1.0	▲	▲	▲
IBM	IBM	150.50	199.21	**160.51**	**-1.83**	-1.1	▼	▼	▼
JPMorgCh	JPM	52.97	63.16	**62.96**	**+.41**	+0.7	▲	▲	▲
JohnJn	JNJ	86.09	109.49	**105.33**	**+.27**	+0.3	▲	▼	▼
JournalCm	JRN	7.79	11.73	**11.88**	**+.19**	+1.6	▲	▲	▲
Lowes	LOW	44.13	68.35	**68.57**	**+1.07**	+1.6	▲	▲	▲
McDnlds	MCD	87.62	103.78	**95.04**	**+.26**	+0.3	▲	▼	▲
Microsoft	MSFT	34.63	50.05	**47.45**	**-.43**	-0.9	▼	▼	▲
MillerHer	MLHR	26.25	32.72	**30.24**	**+.62**	+2.1	▲	▲	▲
Penney	JCP	4.90	11.30	**6.48**	**-.02**	-0.3	▼	▼	▼
Perrigo	PRGO	125.37	171.57	**167.70**	**+1.74**	+1.0	▲	▲	▲
Pfizer	PFE	27.51	33.12	**31.39**	**-.26**	-0.8	▼	▲	▲
ProctGam	PG	75.26	93.89	**92.64**	**-.82**	-0.9	▼	▲	▲
RepubSvc	RSG	31.42	41.12	**40.89**	**+.02**	...	▬	▲	▲
SearsHldgs	SHLD	24.10	48.25	**32.56**	**+.03**	+0.1	▲	▼	▲
Steelcse	SCS	13.60	18.84	**18.44**	**-.08**	-0.4	▼	▲	▲
Stryker	SYK	74.02	98.24	**95.45**	**+.16**	+0.2	▲	▲	▲
Target	TGT	54.66	75.37	**75.53**	**+.47**	+0.6	▲	▲	▲
TractSupp	TSCO	55.95	79.14	**78.69**	**+.77**	+1.0	▲	▲	▲
UPS B	UPS	93.19	113.10	**112.45**	**+.52**	+0.5	▲	▲	▲
VerizonCm	VZ	45.09	53.66	**47.55**	**-.31**	-0.6	▼	▼	▼
WalMart	WMT	72.27	88.09	**86.64**	**-.27**	-0.3	▼	▲	▲
Walgrn	WAG	55.27	77.98	**76.79**	**+.33**	+0.4	▲	▲	▲
Wendys Co	WEN	7.61	10.27	**9.07**	**+.15**	+1.7	▲	▲	▲
Whrlpl	WHR	124.39	194.46	**193.03**	**+.58**	+0.3	▲	▲	▲
Worthgtn	WOR	29.59	45.39	**30.89**	**+.46**	+1.5	▲	▼	▼
XPO Logis	XPO	22.84	42.55	**41.57**	**-.61**	-1.4	▼	▲	▲

LOCAL GRAIN

Co-Alliance LLP Buchanan
Corn ..... $3.68, down 1¢
New crop corn. ..... $3.82, up 13¢
Beans ..... $9.92, up 3¢
New crop beans ..... $9.69, down 20¢
These are the markets as of yesterday.



Nick Ut / AP

Los Angeles police officers investigate a shooting in South Central Los Angles on Monday. A man fired a rifle at two Los Angeles officers in a patrol car on Sunday night but no one was injured in the attack that comes amid tension nationwide between police and protesters rallying against their tactics. LAPD spokeswoman Officer Nuria Venegas said Monday that one man was under arrest and a second suspect was being sought in the shooting in an area of the city ridden with gangs and crime and heavily patrolled by police.

2 men open fire on Los Angeles police patrol car

By TAMI ABDOLLAH
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Two men opened fire on a police car patrolling a tough part of Los Angeles, but the two officers inside were not injured and one was able to shoot back, authorities said Monday. One of the suspects was later arrested and the other is on the loose.

The shooting occurred amid heightened tensions over attacks on police elsewhere in the country after grand juries declined to indict white officers in the killings of unarmed black men.

Police have not yet determined a motive for the Sunday night shooting in South Los Angeles – an area plagued by gang violence – but said there were no indications it was linked to other attacks on police in the country.

"It was a complete unprovoked attack," LAPD Deputy Chief Bob Green said initially. "They were just driving on the street, and somebody struck out and tried to kill two policemen."

However, Green later said police were looking into whether the officers might have driven into an ongoing dispute and were inadvertently fired at.

"Last night the initial assessment, based on the reaction of officers and the adrenaline factor, was they were getting ambushed, but, you know, things change and it takes a lot to investigate this," Green said.

One man was arrested shortly after the attack. An hours-long search followed for the other man, but he remained at large. Police were looking for video evidence and conducting interviews to determine details such as why and how the shooting occurred.

The names of the suspect and targeted officers were not released.

The two officers were responding to an unrelated radio call and driving slowly in a neighborhood when they saw two men on a sidewalk and the flash of a rifle being fired, police said.

The officers stopped the car, and one got out and returned fire as the men fled. Police found one suspect, uninjured, a short time later along with a rifle and another weapon.

Police searched the neighborhood throughout the night for the other suspect, warning nearby residents to stay in their homes. Police stopped the search after the suspect was not found.

Tyler Izen, president of the Los Angeles Police Protective League, said the "blatant violence" was an outrage.

"Anyone who is willing to murder a law enforcement officer threatens the fundamental fabric of our society, and that should terrify the community," Izen said in a statement. "Murdering police officers is not a form of protest, it is an affront to all citizens and to public safety."

The shooting came as protesters in California and across the country have rallied for weeks against police killings of unarmed black men in Missouri and New York.

The killing of two New York City officers in their patrol car has authorities on edge across the country.

The New York gunman ambushed the officers then killed himself after posting threats online, including references to the fatal shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, and the chokehold death of Eric Garner in New York City. Both were killed by white officers.

Obama doesn't rule out U.S. embassy in Iran

By DEB RIECHMANN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — While President Barack Obama hasn't ruled out the possibility of reopening a U.S. Embassy in Iran, Republicans say the Senate will vote within weeks on a bill to impose more sanctions on Tehran over its nuclear program.

Obama was asked in an NPR interview broadcast on Monday whether he could envision opening an embassy there during his final two years in office.

"I never say never," Obama said, adding that U.S. ties with Tehran must be restored in steps.

Washington and its partners are hoping to clinch a deal with Iran by July that would set long-term limits on Iran's enrichment of uranium and other activity that could produce material for use in nuclear weapons. Iran says its program is solely for energy production and medical research purposes. It has agreed to some restrictions in exchange for billions of dollars in relief from U.S. economic sanctions.

On a visit to Israel on Saturday, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said the newRepublican-controlled Senate will vote on an Iran sanctions bill in January.

He said the bipartisan sanction legislation says: "If Iran walks away from the table, sanctions will be re-imposed. If Iran cheats regarding any deal that we enter to the Iranians, sanctions will be re-imposed."

Graham also is sponsoring legislation that would require any deal with Iran to be approved by Congress before sanctions could be lifted.

Standing alongside Graham, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called Iran a "dangerous regime" that should be prevented from having nuclear weapons.

"I believe that what is required are more sanctions, and stronger sanctions," Netanyahu said.

The Obama administration has been telling members of Congress that it has won significant concessions from Iran for recently extending nuclear talks, including promises by the Islamic republic to allow snap inspections of its facilities and to neutralize much of its remaining uranium stockpile. Administration officials have been presenting the Iranian concessions to lawmakers in the hopes of convincing them to support the extension and hold off on new economic sanctions that could derail the diplomatic effort.

Obama has threatened to veto any new sanctions legislation while American diplomats continue their push for an accord that would set multiyear limits on Iran's nuclear progress in exchange for an easing of the international sanctions that have crippled the Iranian economy. Senate hawks are still trying to build a veto-proof majority of 67 votes with Republicans set to assume the majority next month.

Sen. Mark Kirk, R-Ill., told Fox News Sunday that Senate Republicans might have enough backing from Democrats to pass veto-proof legislation that would impose more sanctions on Iran.

"The good thing about those votes, they will be really bipartisan votes," he said. "I have 17 Democrats with me. . We have a shot at even getting to a veto-proof majority in the Senate."

Program that backed Solyndra now showing successes

By HENRY C. JACKSON
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — At the RV Park he owns in a remote corner of southwestern Kansas, Jan Leonard is seeing the benefits of one of the federal government's most contentious programs.

Development is booming in tiny Hugoton, a town of roughly 3,900 people. The town is the site of a new cellulosic ethanol refinery that was funded in part by a loan guarantee from the Department of Energy. The same program funded high-profile flops like Solyndra, the California-based solar company that filed for bankruptcy and led to hearings over the Barack Obama administration's backing of unproven green-energy projects.

But in Hugoton, which Leonard describes as "pretty far from nothing," more trailers are rolling in to his park and new businesses are popping up.

"There's a Dollar General getting built, a new motel getting built. Another grocery store getting built," Leonard said in a phone interview. "There's a lot of different people coming to town. It's been big."

The plant has a work force of 75 and an annual payroll of $5 million. When it was established in 2009, as part of Obama's stimulus package, the clean energy loan guarantee program was billed as a two-fer: It would provide billions of dollars for environment-friendly energy and it would create jobs.

Instead, the program became synonymous with failure and a regular talking point for conservatives.

Besides Solyndra, three other subsidized companies went bust at a cost of $780 million. Critics, especially Republicans in Congress, seized on it as an example of government waste.

But roughly six years on, there are more signs that the program is working. In California, Tesla Motors has flourished, paying back a $465 million loan nearly 10 years early. A handful of companies have opened solar energy sites and signed long-term contracts to sell power to utility companies.

And then there is the Abengoa biorefinery in Hugoton, where Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz came in October for the opening. He was joined by two Kansas officials who voted against the stimulus package: Republicans Sen. Pat Roberts and Gov. Sam Brownback, a former senator.

"This program, let me say, not only here in Hugoton, but across the board has been a tremendous success," Moniz said. "I mentioned $30 billion in loans with a 2 percent default rate – that is a pretty enviable in any portfolio."

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Republicans stuck in a never-ending Armageddon

Meg Greenfield, the late Washington Post editorial page editor, counseled against writing in "High C" all the time. By this she meant that an editorialist or columnist who expressed equally noisy levels of indignation about everything would lack credibility when something truly outrageous came along that merited a well-crafted high-pitched scream.

E.J. Dionne

We now seem to be living in the Age of High C, a period when every fight is Armageddon, every foe is a monster, and every issue is either the key to national survival or the doorway to ruin.

This habit seems especially pronounced in the way President Obama's adversaries treat him. It's odd that so many continue to see Obama as a radical and a socialist even as the Dow hits record levels and the wealthy continue to do very nicely. If he is a socialist, he is surely the most incompetent practitioner in the history of Marxism.

The reaction to Obama is part of a larger difficulty that involves pretending we are philosophically far more divided than we are. In all of the well-off democracies, even people who actually call themselves socialists no longer claim to have an alternative to the market as the primary creator and distributor of goods and services. The boundaries on the left end of what's permissible in the public debate have been pushed well toward the center. This makes the hysteria and hyperbole all the more incomprehensible.

But let's dream a little and assume that the American left signed on to the proposals put forward by Lane Kenworthy of the University of California-San Diego in his challenging (and, by the way, very pro-market) book "Social Democratic America," published earlier this year. Kenworthy's argument is that we can "successfully embrace both flexibility and security, both competition and social justice."

His wish list is a straightforward set of progressive initiatives. A few of them: universal health insurance and early education, extensive new help on job searches and training, a year of paid parental leave, an increased minimum wage indexed to prices, expansions of efforts that supplement wages such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, and the government as an employer of last resort.

His program, he says, would cost around 10 percent of our GDP. Now that's a lot of money and the debate about whether we should spend it would be anything but phony. Yet would such a level of expenditure signal the death of our constitutional system? Would it make us like, say, Cuba? No, and no. It might make us a little more like Germany, the Netherlands or the Scandinavian countries. We can argue if we want to do this, but these market democracies happen to share with us an affection for freedom and enterprise.

And when it comes to High C, there's nothing quite like our culture wars in which disagreements about social issues are seen as battles between libertines and bigots. When I look around, I see a lot of liberals who live quite traditional family lives and even go regularly to churches, synagogues and mosques. I see a lot of conservatives who are feminists when it comes to their daughters' opportunities and oppose bigotry against gays and lesbians.

The ideological resolution I'd suggest for the new year is that all sides stop fighting and pool their energies to easing the marriage and family crisis that is engulfing working-class Americans.

This would require liberals to acknowledge what the vast majority of them already practice in their own lives: that, all things being equal, kids are better off with two loving and engaged parents. It would require conservatives to acknowledge that many of the pressures on families are economic and that the decline of well-paying blue-collar work is causing huge disruptions in family formation. I'd make a case that Kenworthy's ideas for a more social democratic America would be good for families, but let's argue it out in the spirit of a shared quest for remedies.

Maybe it's asking too much, but might social conservatives also consider my friend Jonathan Rauch's idea that they abandon their campaign against gay marriage in favor of a new campaign on behalf of the value of committed relationships for all of us?

Disagreement is one of the joys of freedom, so I am all for boisterous debate and tough political and philosophical competition. It's how I make my living. But our democratic system would be healthier if it followed the Greenfield rule and reserved the harshest invective for things that are genuinely monstrous.

E.J. Dionne is a columnist for The Washington Post. His email is: ejdionne@washpost.com

America and the age of decadence

In the film, "Girl Interrupted," Winona Ryder plays an 18-year-old who enters a mental institution for what is diagnosed as borderline personality disorder. The year is 1967 and the country is in turmoil over Vietnam and civil rights. While lying on her bed one night and watching TV, she sees a news report about a demonstration. The narrator says something that might apply to today's turmoil: "We live in a time of doubt. The institutions we once trusted no longer seem reliable."

Cal Thomas

As 2014 ends, the stock market is at record highs but our traditional institutions and self-confidence are in decline.

A Pew Research Center study confirms one trend that has been obvious over several years. The "typical" American family is no longer typical. Just 46 percent of American children now live in homes with their married, heterosexual parents. Five percent have no parents at home. They most likely are living with grandparents, says the study.

These startling figures about the decline of the American family contrast with the year 1960 when 73 percent of American children lived in traditional families.

A major contributor to this trend has been the assault on marriage and other institutions by the Baby Boom generation. It was that generation that promoted cohabitation, no-fault divorce, hatred of the police (they called them "pigs" then, too) and disdain for the military and America, spawned not just by the Vietnam War but a life of relative ease unknown to their parents.

The culture bomb dropped by the boomers created fallout still being felt today. The two-plus generations born since the Sixties have been infused with the notion of entitlement, victimhood, envy and greed. Since the elimination of the draft, young people are no longer expected to serve in the military and so most of them pursue whatever goals they wish with no expectation they should give something back to their country. It's one possible explanation for why we can no longer seem to win wars.

History warns us what happens when empires refuse to teach known values that strengthen societies and help protect them from enemies intent on their destruction.

The late British diplomat Sir John Glubb wrote a book called "The Fate of Empires and Search For Survival." Glubb noted the average age of empires since the time of ancient Assyria (859-612 B.C.) is 250 years. Only the Mameluke Empire in Egypt and the Levant (1250-1517) made it as far as 267 years. America is 238 years old and is exhibiting signs of decline.

All empires begin, writes Glubb, with the age of pioneers, followed by ages of conquest, commerce, affluence, intellect and decadence. America appears to have reached the age of decadence, which Glubb defines as marked by "defensiveness, pessimism, materialism, frivolity, an influx of foreigners, the welfare state, (and) a weakening of religion."

Decadence, he writes, "is due to: Too long a period of wealth and power, selfishness, love of money (and) the loss of a sense of duty."

Do these not define America at the end of 2014? Glubb says the 250-year average of empires has not varied in 3,000 years, but we don't learn from history because "our studies are brief and prejudiced." He means they are mostly about one's own country.

It will take more than a new Congress in 2015 and a new president in 2017 to save us from the fate of other empires. It will take a revival of the American spirit, and that can only come through changed attitudes towards our institutions and each other.

Cal Thomas is a columnist for Tribune Content Agency. His email is: tcaeditorstribune.com

LETTERS

Lakeland employees are to be commended

Editor,

None of us considers that we will spend Christmas Day in the emergency room of the local hospital. But when you're sitting by the Christmas tree looking at gifts and sharp pains start shooting through your chest, you get yourself there.

Upon arrival at Lakeland, where there were several people ahead of me, it seemed we were all recognized, processed and moved along at the same time. From the receptionist to the lead physician, everyone was personal, professional and very effective. As my wife and I thanked everyone for working on Christmas Day, the response, to a person, was, "This is our job." Everything was explained in language easy to understand, and each person helping us was very concerned for our comfort and our schedule.

Because of the nature of my symptoms, it was necessary that I spend the night in the cardiac observation room. There we found another team of sharp, effective and cheerful professionals. It is truly wonderful to be focused on by people who clearly loved their work and are committed to your care and comfort.

Our community is lucky to have Lakeland, a "big-city" hospital with "small-town" values.

George Barfield
St. Joseph

ANOTHER OPINION

It's time for hope to kindle better days

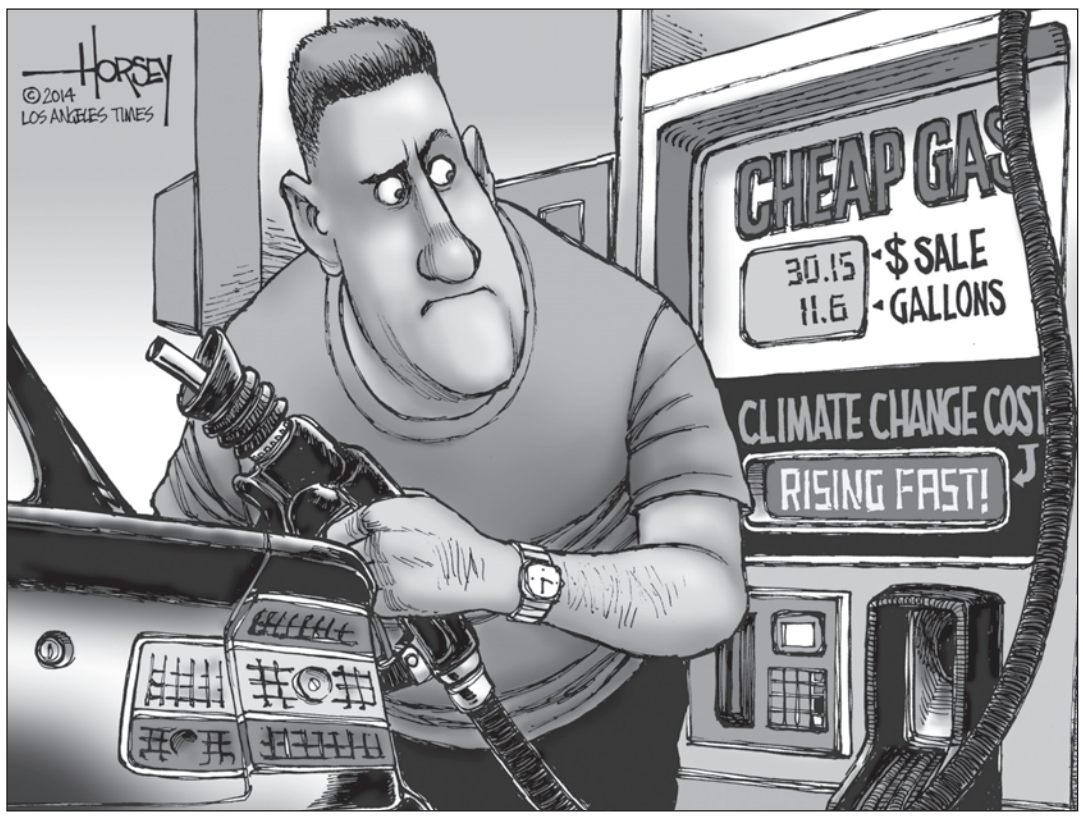
It's little surprise the holiday season comes at the end of the year. That's when we need it most. After 12 tough months, we have to reboot. And these last 12 months have been brutal in many ways.

The headlines of 2014 hammered us relentlessly, most recently with the ambush killings of two police officers in Brooklyn, N.Y., reminding us of the horrors that can befall us and the horrors we inflict on ourselves.

Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 disappeared over the Indian Ocean, and Russian-backed rebels in Ukraine shot down another Malaysia Airlines jet. Ebola killed thousands in West Africa. The Islamic State rose, Syria collapsed, the word beheading was heard more often. The deaths of Michael Brown and Eric Garner at the hands of police wrenched the nation into a searing conversation about race, power and perception. And the Taliban killed dozens of students in Pakistan. The smallest coffins, indeed, are the heaviest. But we cannot let dreadful acts consume us. The past year gave us plenty of inspiration, too. A 17-year-old girl from Pakistan won the Nobel Peace Prize, doctors and nurses continued to volunteer to fight Ebola, and the pope spread a powerful message of tolerance and acceptance. Each was its own lesson in courage.

So gather with friends and family. Bask in their warmth and love. Walk the line between remembering the past and yearning for the future. And hope for happier and less unsettling days to come.

– Newsday



Government dysfunction and waste never go out of style

Most of the ubiquitous reviews of 2014 center on the obvious – the rise of the Islamic State, the Republican resurgence at the election polls, the tension between minorities and the police. But often it is the small things that occurred in the year that are mainly overlooked that offer startling proof of governmental dysfunction that borders on malfeasance.

Dan Thomasson

The late Sen. William Proxmire of Wisconsin used to review these events on a yearly basis and nominate them for what he called "Golden Fleece" awards for their ridiculous audacity. They were sometimes humorous but more frequently atrocious examples of waste at taxpayer expense. Proxmire would have loved highlighting one such project that is almost a perfect example of callous bureaucratic and political disregard for the public's financial welfare not uncommon in these environs.

Most of us have heard of the "bridge to nowhere," the much maligned attempt to build at a substantial cost a structure at public expense that led to an Alaskan island where only 50 people lived. Now comes news of an even more flamboyant misuse of our money – yours and mine. More startling is the fact that it is the result of an obvious conspiracy between one of the nation's former glamour agencies, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Congress.

This monument to how to bilk the taxpayers is a NASA test tower in Mississippi that was meant for a space project that was cancelled four years before it was completed this year at a cost of $349 million. It has been mothballed seemingly for eternity or for at least only God and NASA and maybe one of its chief benefactors, Sen. Roger Wicker a Mississippi Republican, knows how long at an estimated annual cost of $700,000 to maintain it. Actually, according to the Washington Post, which recently revealed this smelly business based on a NASA inspector general's report, the tower could cost considerably more to make it operational if it ever was needed.

The Post said the project's manager in NASA decided that it was completed enough to satisfy Congress and shut it down in June. The inspector general's report issued last January stated that the A-3 test stand was to be completed by 2010 at an estimated cost of between $163 million and $185 million. However, it said, construction of the test stand took three years longer than estimated and the cost went up substantially. That's an old story in this town where no government project ever seems to cost what is expected or is completed on time.

But in this case it didn't make any difference because by 2010, the program whose engine it was supposed to test was shutdown.

Then why complete it? The short explanation would be that at some time, it may be useful. In the words of a an old craps player, Congress decided it should bet on the come although the odds of that occurring are not only long, the amount needed to outfit the stand properly also could be prohibitive by then.

This odyssey, of course, is less about space – further trips to the moon and manned flights to Mars and so forth than it is about plain old venality, the kind that helps politicians get elected by spending U.S. treasury money on meaningless projects. As a young correspondent in this burg some 50 years ago I wrote about a similar NASA boondoggle.

This one was the construction of a large plant in Oklahoma to produce boron missile fuel. The driving force behind the project was Sen. Robert S. Kerr, who was chairing the committee that oversaw NASA's then blossoming space projects. The missile fuel was never produced and the government sold everything from fire engines to cafeteria equipment for pennies on the dollar, a very large loss. Kerr had died by the time the whole thing became public knowledge.

If there is an event as we close the year of dramatic news that should stir outrage among Americans because of its lack of complexity, its straight forward example of misappropriation of public funds, the tower scam should be it. Those involved in the decisions surrounding it, including the members of Congress who helped engineer it, probably should be transported to outer space permanently.

The whirring sound emanating from the edifice's locked door is the ghost of William Proxmire.

Dan Thomasson is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service.

Obituaries

Diana McKinney

Diana Denise McKinney 58, of Benton Harbor went home to be with the Lord on Dec. 26, 2014. A celebration of life service will be Wednesday, Dec. 31, at Mount Zion Baptist Church. Visitation begins at 10 a.m., followed by the funeral at 11 a.m. Those wishing to sign the guest book online may do so at www.familyfuneralhomebh.org.

MCKINNEY

Diana was born Aug. 3, 1956, to Robert Pullaim and Gladys Feeman. She accepted Christ at an early age and was a member of Mount Zion Baptist Church. She loved family, cooking and watching sports, especially track and field. In the late 1960s Diana completed in the Can-Am Games in Canada. Diana was united in marriage to Ben L. McKinney on Dec. 3, 1977.

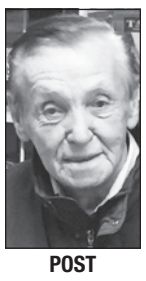
Diana is survived by her husband, Ben L. "Dickie" McKinney; daughters, Quintella (Lonnie) Phipps and Fame (Patrick) Thomas; sisters, Lillie Mae Jones, Jersey and Valarie Jean Lesure; brother, Anthony Reed; grandchildren: Dequail, Dalvin and Loneisha Pullaim, and Jada and Shanice Thomas; god-daughters: Robin, Dawnekia and Wana; aunt, Rose Pullaim-Hubbert; and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Diana was preceded in death by her parents; daughter, Solois McKinney; brother, Leandrew Pullaim; and paternal grandparents.

Ralph E. Post

Ralph Edgar Post, 91, of St. Joseph passed away Friday, Dec. 26, 2014, at Lakeland Regional Medical Center in St. Joseph.

Cremation will take place, and private family services will be held. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Ralph's name may be made to Baroda American Legion Post 345 or Support Our Troops Festival, P.O. Box 117, Baroda, MI 49101. Online condolences accepted at www.PikeFH.com.


POST

Ralph was born June 11, 1923, in Bridgman, the son of the late Frank and Margaret (Habel) Post. He was preceded in death by his wife, Veronica (Oles) Post, on Aug. 16, 1984. Ralph was a U.S. Navy veteran and proudly served his country for 38 1/2 years. He flew fighter jets around the world; if it had wings, Ralph flew it. He owned and operated Post and Company Construction, where he designed and build custom homes. Later he was a dedicated salesman for Jim Gilmore Cadillac in Kalamazoo and had the distinction of being in the top 5 percent of Cadillac salesman nationwide. Since 2000, Ralph worked hand in hand with his son, Carle, at the Gun & Bow Outpost in Baroda. He was an avid big game hunter and fulfilled a lifelong dream to hunt in Africa. Ralph loved his country and took pride and ownership in whatever was before him.

Survivors include a son, Carle Post of St. Joseph; two grandsons, Robert Post and Michael (Carol) Post, both of England; a granddaughter, Shawna Anderson of Georgia; and two great-grandchildren.

Ralph was also preceded in death by a brother, Ellan Post; and a sister, Edith Percell.

Bennett Schaub

Bennett Leo Schaub, 77, of St. Joseph passed away Saturday, Dec. 27, 2014, at Pine Ridge Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Stevensville.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 1:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2, 2015, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 211 Church St., St. Joseph, with Father James Morris officiating. Burial will follow in Riverview Cemetery, St. Joseph. Friends may visit from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday, with the Rosary recited at 12:30 p.m., at Starks & Menchinger Chapel, 2650 Niles Road, St. Joseph. Memorial donations may be made to Hospice at Home. Those wishing to sign Ben's memory book online may do so at www.starks-menchinger.com.

SCHAUB

Ben was born Aug. 6, 1937, in Belleville, Mich., to Leo and Genevieve (Denoyer) Schaub. He graduated from Suttons Bay High School in 1956. Ben served several years in the United States Air Force and, after an honorable discharge, earned an associate degree from Lake Michigan College. Ben's work career was in the tool and die industry. He was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in St. Joseph, the Stevensville American Legion and the American Pool Players Association. Ben cherished the time he spent with his family, and enjoyed playing pool, music, dancing, playing cards, hunting, fishing, and tending to his vegetable and flower gardens. But most of all, he enjoyed a good joke and making people smile.

Ben is survived by his children: David Schaub of St. Joseph, Carolyn (Robert) Krueger of Bridgman, Patrick Schaub of New York, Michael (Amy) Schaub of Stevensville and Jennifer Sullivan of St. Joseph; five grandchildren: David, Danielle, Sydney, Andrea and Michaela; five great-grandchildren: Gavin, Jared, Amelie, Ella and Bradlee; five brothers: Urban (Erica) Schaub and Daniel (Beverly) Schaub, both of Muskegon; and Michael (Dorothy) Schaub, Lonnie Schaub Melvin (Mary) Schaub, all of the Traverse City area; three sisters: Sister Geneva Marie Schaub of Grand Rapids, Geneva (Jerry) Lamie of the Traverse City area and Doreen (Robert) Stone of West Branch, Mich.; sister-in-law, Fran Schaub of Muskegon; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Earl Schaub; and his longtime companion, Darlene Tefs.

William L. Hodgkinson Jr.

William Lane Hodgkinson Jr., 73 of Buchanan passed away Saturday, Dec. 27, 2014, at West Woods of Bridgman.

Cremation will take place, and private family services will be held. Online condolences accepted at www.PikeFH.com,

Bill was born April 17, 1941, in McKeesport, Pa., the son of the late William and Thelma (Funk) Hodgkinson Sr. On March 25, 1961, he married Nancy Jane Heaton. He was a U.S. Navy veteran and retired from Whirlpool Corp. He was an avid hunter and fisherman and loved the outdoors.

HODGKINSON

Survivors include his wife of 53 years, Nancy; children: Regina (John Williams) Hodgkinson of Benton Harbor, William "Bill" Lane Hodgkinson III of Hartford and Kelly (Tim) Russell of Buchanan; grandchildren: Abbey Russell, Jessica (Justin Greco) Dinges, Jake (Stephanie) Russell, Vanessa (Brian) Deuel and Mark Dinges II; great-grandchildren: Landon and Aubree Deuel, Ayden Dinges and Adalyn Russell; a sister, Mary Jane Hixson of Florida; a brother, Roy (Vicki) Hodgkinson of North Carolina; and many nieces and nephews.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Pike Funeral Home, Boyd Chapel, 9191 Red Arrow Highway, Bridgman (465-3239).

Barbara Jane Gross

Barbara Jane Gross of Watervliet was born April 2, 1924, in Kalamazoo to Henry and Florence (Nelson) Shepard. She lived in Kalamazoo and Lawrence. Barbara completed the eighth grade, then went to work as live-in help.

Barbara met Donald James Gross, and they were married March 8, 1943. They were together 58 years, and she had missed him for 13 years.

She raised their three children in Watervliet: Elizabeth (Thomas) Mundt, Barbara (Earl Fred) Grant and Donald (Mary Frances) Gross. She enjoyed loving eight grandchildren: Tim (Martha) Mundt, Greg (Kristine) Mundt, Doug (Tara) Mundt, Amy (John) Lovell, Debbie (Darrell) Keltner, Brian (Laura) Grant, Tammy (Glenn) Stephens and Dawn (Bill) Rushing; and 20 great-grandchildren: Brandon, Austin, Gabi and Cameron Mundt; Brooke and Tyler Mundt; Alyssa Peterson; Rachel, Robert and Will Cooper; Mackenzie Grant; Justin and Ryan McCarley; Merideth (Kenny) Taylor; Slade Rushing; Rhett Graham; Thad Stephens; and Lauren and Teanna Lovell.

Barbara passed away Sunday, Dec. 28, at Countryside Nursing Home in South Haven with her children present. Barbara had many loving caregivers in her three years there. Barbara was preceded in death by her husband; parents; brother, Nelson; and sisters: Bernice Ludecking, Helen Shepard and Henrietta Judy Shepard.

Hutchins Funeral Home in Watervliet is assisting Barbara's family with cremation arrangements, and burial will happen at a later date. You are invited to share a memory with Barbara's family at hutchinsfuneral.com.

Mary E. Durlin

Mary E. Durlin, 62, of Bremen, Ind., passed away Friday, Dec. 26, 2014. She was born Dec. 19, 1952, in South Bend to Clarence Charles and Juanita May (Stephens) Krueger. On Feb. 20, 1971, Mary married David L. Durlin, and he survives.

Mary was a homemaker and enjoyed being a grandmother.

She is survived by her husband, David L. Durlin of Bremen; a daughter, Jennifer Durlin of Bremen; three sons: Michael Durlin of Winachester, Va.; and Benjamin Durlin and Joseph Durlin of Bremen; a brother, Charles (Jane) Krueger of Bridgman, Mich.; three sisters: Rita (Mike) Stachowiak of Michigan City; Kathy (Bob) Clemons of Pullman, Mich.; and Tina (Paul) Keller of New Buffalo, Mich.; and 14 grandchildren. Mary was preceded in death by her parents.

A gathering honoring the life of Mary will be at 3:30 p.m. today, Dec. 30, 2014, at First Baptist Church of Bremen, 414 E. Lincoln St., Bremen.

Instead of flowers, the family has requested that memorials be given to the Bremen Food Pantry.

Mishler Funeral Home in Bremen is assisting the family with arrangements. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.mishlerfuneralhomes.com.

Violet Pufall

Violet Pufall, 96, of Galien died Sunday morning, Dec. 28, 2014, at CrownPointe of Stevensville surrounded by family.

PUFALL

Violet was born Aug. 6, 1918, in Galien to Earl and Dora (Miller) Roberts. She graduated from New Troy High School and continued her education at Secretarial College in Benton Harbor. She was employed as an executive secretary at Clark Equipment Co. in Buchanan. Violet played the accordion with other musicians and also for the enjoyment of her family. She married Arthur C. Pufall, and they made their home on Spring Creek Road in Galien. They always had something fun in store when their nieces and nephews visited them in Galien or at their place on Swan Lake. Violet was the longest active member of Roy Chilson American Legion Post 344 in Galien and a member of the Galien Historical Society.

Survivors include her many nieces and nephews. Many neighbors, friends and caregivers also thought of her as their Aunt Violet.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Art; and siblings: Odean Roberts, Geraldine Goodenough, Myrtle Christie and Charles Roberts.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 4, 2014, at Pobocik Funeral Home in Three Oaks with the Rev. Jeffrey Cummings officiating. Interment will follow in Galien Cemetery. Visitation will be from noon until the time of services Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to Galien United Methodist Church or Roy Chilson American Legion Post 344.

To leave a tribute online, please visit www.pobocik.com.

Joyce (Merritt) Bowers

Joyce Jeanine (Merritt) Bowers, 84, of Mesa, Ariz., entered into heaven Dec. 22, 2014. Born March 17, 1930, in Benton Harbor, Joyce spent much of her life in Sodus, Coldwater and Gaylord.

BOWERS

Joyce, daughter of Forrest and Sylvia (Pokorny) Merritt, is survived by her loving husband of 63 years, Lawrence; her brother and sister-in-law, Wayne and Joanne Merritt; son and daughter-in-law, William and Cindy Bowers; daughter and son-in-law, Pattie and Chuck Baker; daughter and son-in-law, Catherine and Tom Meisterheim; and nine grandchildren.

Her life was filled with music, family, church, crafts and work. A talented pianist even in her youth, she entertained audiences as a soloist and accompanist. She shared her love of music by teaching piano for many years and as a member of the Sweet Adelines singing organization. Joyce was an active and supportive mother, attending all sports, concerts and special events for her four children. She unknowingly touched so many other lives with her empathy and compassion.

She was an active member of United Methodist Church for more than 70 years and volunteered in many capacities in the church and the community. One of her greatest joys was working on various crafting projects with her friends. Joyce retired from Old Kent Bank in 1992 and enjoyed traveling and tending her flower garden while at home in Gaylord.

Joyce was preceded in death by her infant brother and her son, Frederick Bowers. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

A memorial service will be at 4 p.m. Jan. 9 at Mountain View Funeral Home & Cemetery in Mesa. A memorial service also will be held in Michigan at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Alzheimer's Association (www.alz.org). Visit www.Mountainviewfuneralhomeandcemetery.com with condolences or to share memories.

Audrey M. Walter

Audrey M. Walter, 74, of Buchanan passed away Saturday, Dec. 27, 2014, at her home.

Audrey was born Nov. 29, 1940, to the late Coy and Esther Baldwin in Baroda. She married her first husband, Robert Galaske, who passed away in 1971. Audrey later married Joseph Galaske. Her last husband was Michael Walter, who preceded her in death in 1998. She is survived by her children: George (Cindy) Galaske, Elizabeth Sunday, Ron Galaske and Vanita Vigansky; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Audrey was also preceded in death by her brother, Coy Lee Baldwin.

Funeral services for Audrey will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, 2015, at Hoven Funeral Home, Buchanan. Burial will follow in Galien Cemetery. Visitation will be from 5-7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2, 2015, at Hoven Funeral Home. Memorial contributions may be made to American Heart Association or Buchanan Police Department.

Acenith Wilder

Acenith Wilder, 92, of Lawton died Saturday, Dec. 27, 2014.

Her life began April 20, 1922, in Hartford, the daughter of Nary and Mabel Johnson, and she had lived in the area her entire life. She married Harold Jay Wilder on Aug. 30, 1941, and he preceded her in death in 2004.

Visitation with family and friends will be from 4-7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2, at Life Story Funeral Home, Betzler & Thompson, 60900 M-40 (800-822-7594), Paw Paw, where services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday.

Survivors include four children: Kenneth (Carol) Wilder of Lawton, Carolyn (Barry) Kitzmiller of Gobles, Robert Wilder of Paw Paw and Marlene (Ed) Newington of Coloma; seven grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; a brother, Nary Frank Johnson; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by two sisters, Verna Westdorp and Helen Richardson; and a step-granddaughter, Shelley Kitzmiller Snyder.

To leave an online message for the family, please visit www.lifestorynet.com. Memorial contributions may be made to Hamilton Grange Hall or a charity of the donor's choice.

Melvin E. Hiler

The Rev. Melvin Eugene Hiler, 73, died unexpectedly Dec. 26, 2014, at home in Casco, Mich.

HILER

Melvin is survived by his children: Melissa Hiler, Matthew (Heather) Hiler, Micah (Georgina) Hiler and Matrina (Billy) Whitley; grandchildren: Cody, Nolan, Garett, Ethan, Hannah, Grant and Gabriel; sisters, Rosalie Miller and Linda (Carl) Frazee, both of Watervliet; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Harry and Florence Hiler; and his brother, Jerry Hiler.

Melvin was born Nov. 10, 1941, in Watervliet. He graduated from Watervliet High School, and earned his Bachelor of Theology degree at Concordia Fort Wayne Senior College and his Master of Divinity degree at Concordia Seminary in Springfield, Ill.

Melvin was founder and pastor of Christ the King Lutheran Church in Chesterfield, Mich. He was a generous, loving and giving person who was a cornerstone in the community. He lived to serve others and was loved by many. He enjoyed singing, playing guitar, raising his horses and spending time with his family. His smile and good humor were infectious and just two of his many trademark characteristics. He will be missed greatly.

Visitation will be from 2:30-9 p.m. today, Dec. 30, 2014, at Gendernalik Funeral Home, 35259 Twenty-three Mile Road, New Baltimore, Mich. The funeral service will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2014, at the funeral home with early viewing from 9-10 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations would be appreciated at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Chesterfield.

Death notices

Barbara Jane Gross, 90, of Watervliet died Sunday, Dec. 28, 2014, at Countryside Nursing Home in South Haven. Hutchins Funeral Home, Watervliet, 463-3811.

Ralph Edgar Post, 91, of St. Joseph died Friday, Dec. 26, 2014, at Lakeland Regional Medical Center in St. Joseph. Pike Funeral Home, Boyd Chapel, Bridgman, 465-3239.

Violet Pufall, 96, of Galien died Sunday morning, Dec. 28, 2014, at CrownPointe of Stevensville. Pobocik Funeral Home, Connelly-Noble Chapel, Three Oaks, 756-3831.

Zakary Thomas Svorec, 23, of Benton Harbor died Monday, Dec. 29, 2014, at home. Starks & Menchinger Chapel and Cremation Services, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Audrey M Walter, 74, of Buchanan died Saturday, Dec. 27, 2014, at home. Hoven Funeral Home, Buchanan, 695-2363.

Acenith Wilder, 92, of Lawton died Saturday, Dec. 27, 2014. Betzler & Thompson Life Story Funeral Homes, Paw Paw, 657-3870.

Getting it straight

The Herald-Palladium makes every effort to ensure accuracy in its stories.

If you think there is an error, please contact the editor of the page on which it occurred. If you are unsure of whom to contact, call Assistant Local News Editor Jim Dalgleish at 429-1293.

Births

Lakeland Regional Medical Center, St. Joseph

Baroda – Girl, 7 pounds, 6 ounces, Katie and Raymond Zordell, 3:26 p.m. Dec. 27.

Benton Harbor – Girl, 7 pounds, 10 ounces, Janay Washington, 1:16 a.m. Dec. 28.

Benton Harbor – Boy, 6 pounds, 13 ounces, Julia and Sean Austen, 5:44 a.m. Dec. 29.

Benton Harbor – Boy, 8 pounds, 3 ounces, Rosilyn Taylor, 6:47 a.m. Dec. 29.

Berrien Springs – Boy, 9 pounds, 5 ounces, Kristie Cawley and Tyler Iazzetto, 10:12 p.m. Dec. 27.

Coloma – Boy, 9 pounds, 3 ounces, Erica and Josh Kirshman, 1:16 p.m. Dec. 29.

St. Joseph – Girl, 6 pounds, 8 ounces, Katie and Jesse Toney, 2:26 p.m. Dec. 25.

St. Joseph – Boy, 7 pounds, 13.5 ounces, Juliet and Christopher Cunningham, 4:21 p.m. Dec. 26.

Stevensville – Boy, 9 pounds, 4 ounces, Emily and Matt Fix, 6:18 p.m. Dec. 27.

Beltone Helping the world hear better
MEDICAL SHOCKER:
New research confirms hearing loss is tied to Alzheimer's and Dementia* - and up to 80% of those with hearing loss don't realize they have it...letting it go dangerously untreated.
*Johns Hopkins and The National Institute on Aging Study.
Don't let hearing problems sneak up on you. Call now for your FREE baseline hearing screening... don't suffer in silence.
www.beltonehearingaid.com
St. Joseph
269-932-4942
WWW.THEHP.COM

Do you remember?

25 years ago – 1989

Cellular One of Berrien County, 1021 Main St. in St. Joseph, went "on line" last week with the opening of its broadcast tower.

Dan Symonds got a late Christmas present Tuesday night at Wil-O-Paw Lanes. The Berrien Springs bowler reached perfection when he smashed a 300 game in the Fruit Belt League.

35 years ago – 1979

Four promotions and an appointment have been announced by the board of directors of Citizens Trust and Savings Bank, headquartered in South Haven. Miles Coffman and Barbara Comeau were promoted to assistant vice presidents, Jack Fennell was promoted to vice president and controller, and Glenn Pietenpol was promoted to assistant vice president and trust officer. Helga Costello was appointed assistant cashier.

Percy Carr, owner of Fashions For All Seasons in Benton Harbor, will chair a committee at the national White House Conference on Small Business Jan. 13-17 in Washington, D.C.

50 years ago – 1964

Travelers on I-94 between I-196 and New Buffalo will soon have six lanes to speed them on their way. The State Highway Department announced Tuesday that construction of the additional two lanes will be 33.2 miles in length at an estimated cost of $4.4 million. The highway will be placed under construction in February 1965.

Today in history

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 30, the 364th day of 2014. There is one day left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 30, 1922, Vladimir I. Lenin proclaimed the establishment of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which lasted nearly seven decades before dissolving in Dec. 1991.

On this date:

In 1813, British troops burned Buffalo, New York, during the War of 1812.

In 1853, the United States and Mexico signed a treaty under which the U.S. agreed to buy some 45,000 square miles of land from Mexico for $10 million in a deal known as the Gadsden Purchase.

In 1903, about 600 people died when fire broke out at the recently opened Iroquois Theater in Chicago.

In 1936, the United Auto Workers union staged its first "sit-down" strike at the General Motors Fisher Body Plant No. 1 in Flint, Michigan. (The strike lasted until Feb. 11, 1937.)

In 1944, King George II of Greece proclaimed a regency to rule his country, virtually renouncing the throne.

In 1954, Olympic gold medal runner Malvin G. Whitfield became the first black recipient of the James E. Sullivan Award for amateur athletes.

In 1965, Ferdinand Marcos was inaugurated for his first term as president of the Philippines.

5-Day Forecast for St. Joseph

Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Snow Likely	Snow Possible	Snow Possible	Partly Cloudy	Snow Possible	Snow Possible
26º	16º	21º / 18º	28º / 23º	33º / 28º	36º / 27º

Local Outlook

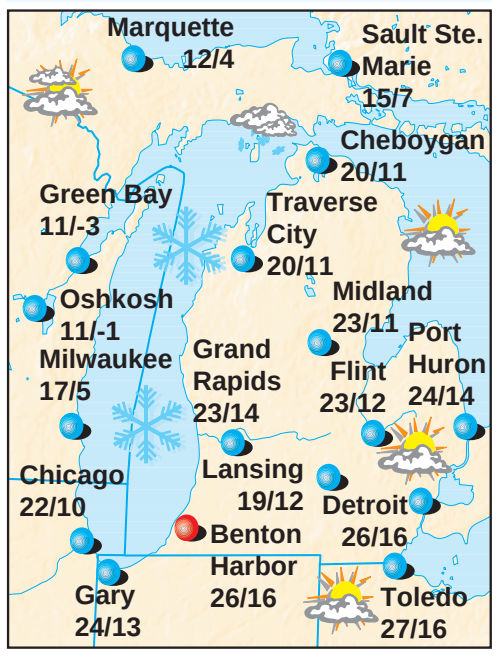
Today we will see cloudy skies with a 60% chance of snow, high temperature of 26º, humidity of 58%. Northwest wind 10 to 15 mph. New snow accumulation of around an inch possible. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight with a 40% chance of snow.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise	8:14 a.m.
Sunset	5:23 p.m.
Moonrise	1:38 p.m.
Moonset	2:32 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
1/4	1/13	1/20	1/26

Regional Map



Local Almanac

Benton Harbor yesterday

Temperature

High	34º
Low	20º
Normal High	31º
Normal Low	19º
Record High	64º in 1984
Record Low	-2º in 1961

Precipitation

Yesterday	0.00"
Month to date	1.44"
Normal month to date	2.55"
Year to date	26.55"
Normal year to date	36.88"

Air Quality

Yesterday..... 17
Main Offender.....Particles

The higher the number, the greater the need for people with respiratory problems to reduce outside activity.

0-50.....Good
51-100.....Moderate
101-150....Sensitive
151-200..Unhealthy

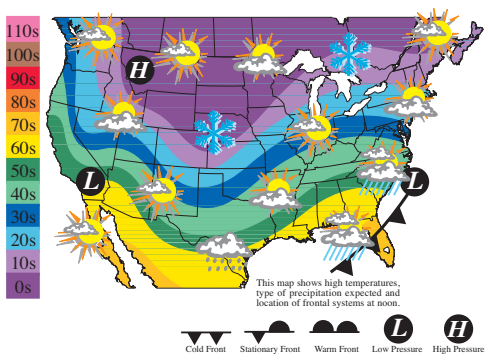
Weather Trivia

What parts of the world receive the most hail each year?

Answer: Northern India and Kenya, as a result of strong thunderstorms.

National Weather Map

Forecast map for Dec. 30, 2014



Lake Michigan

Today, northwest winds 15 to 25 kt increasing to 30 kt in the afternoon. Scattered snow showers. Waves 4 to 7 ft occasionally to 9 ft. Water temperature 35 degrees.

Michigan Forecast

Upper Peninsula

Today we will see partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated snow, highs in the teens. Northwest wind 15 mph. Skies will be partly cloudy Wednesday with isolated snow, highs in the teens.

Lower Peninsula

Today, skies will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated snow, highs in the low 20s. West northwest wind 7 to 11 mph. Skies will be partly cloudy Wednesday with isolated snow, highs in the low 20s.

INSURANCE

From page A1

fines from some uninsured people, and deciding if others qualify for exemptions.

What many people don't realize is that the penalties go up significantly in 2015. Only 3 percent of uninsured people know what the fine for 2015 will be, according to a recent poll by the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation.

Figuring out your potential exposure if you're uninsured isn't simple.

For 2014, the fine is the greater of $95 per person or 1 percent of household income above the threshold for filing taxes. It will jump in 2015 to the greater of 2 percent of income or $325. By 2016, the average fine will be about $1,100, based on government figures.

People can get a sense of the potential hit by going online and using the Tax Policy Center's Affordable Care Act penalty calculator.

Many taxpayers may be able to get a pass. Based on congressional analysis, tax preparation giant H&R Block says roughly 4 million uninsured people will pay penalties and 26 million will qualify for exemptions from the list of more than 30 waivers.

But it's unclear whether taxpayers are aware of the exemptions.

Deciding what kind of waiver to seek could be crucial. Some can be claimed directly on a tax return, but others involve mailing paperwork to the Department of Health and Human Services. Tax preparation companies say the IRS has told them it's taking steps to make sure taxpayers' returns don't languish in bureaucratic limbo while HHS rules on their waivers.

TurboTax has created a free online tool called "Exemption Check" for people to see if they may qualify for a waiver. Charges apply later if the taxpayer files through TurboTax.

Timing will be critical for uninsured people who want to avoid the rising penalties for 2015.

That's because Feb. 15 is the last day of open enrollment under the health law. After that, only people with special circumstances can sign up. But just 5 percent of uninsured people know the correct deadline, according to the Kaiser poll.

"We could be looking at a real train wreck after Feb. 15," said Stan Dorn, a health policy expert at the nonpartisan Urban Institute. "People will file their tax returns and learn they are subject to a much larger penalty for 2015, and they can do absolutely nothing to avoid that."

The insurance requirement and penalties remain the most unpopular part of the health care law. They were intended to serve a broader purpose by nudging healthy people into the insurance pool, helping to keep premiums more affordable.

Sensitive to political backlash, supporters of the health care law have played down the penalties in their sign-up campaigns. But stressing the positive – such as the availability of financial help and the fact that insurers can no longer turn away people with health problems – may be contributing to the information gap about the penalties.

Dayson, the Phoenix resident, says she's hoping her employer will offer a health plan she can fit into her budget, allowing her to avoid higher fines for 2015.

In Des Moines, recent college graduate Moon has held a succession of temporary local and state government jobs that don't provide affordable coverage. The penalties are on his mind.

"When it gets up to $325, I hope I have a career that actually offers me a good health care plan," he said.

Sex trafficking shelter filled with survivor tales

By JULIET LINDERMAN
Associated Press

Patrick Semansky / AP

Violesia, a survivor of sex trafficking, sits on a rocking chair Oct. 8 at the faith-based Samaritan Women home in Baltimore. Local and federal law enforcement agencies are trying to do more to combat sex trafficking, but with an ever-increasing volume of survivors being collected, the patchwork of governmental, non-profit and faith-based organizations that provide care are scrambling to keep up.

BALTIMORE — Squatting in the grass and squinting in the sun, 25-year-old Song takes in the scene: a greenhouse, a farm, rows of heirloom tomatoes, clusters of herbs and flowering zucchini, squash and cucumber plants.

A year ago and less than a mile away, she was working the streets of West Baltimore, trading sex for money.

That she now tends a vegetable garden is thanks to the Samaritan Women, a residential program that is among the relatively few in the nation dedicated to long-term help for the surging numbers of victims of human trafficking.

For most of her adult life, Song was homeless, addicted and caught in a cycle of violence and emotional manipulation that began when she was a child and until just recently, she herself didn't even recognize.

When she was arrested for the last time almost a year ago, she begged the judge to send her to a long-term, residential shelter rather than back onto the streets. As her 30-day stay at a short-term shelter was almost up, she met a man at a Narcotics Anonymous meeting who gave her the number to the Samaritan Women house. A bed was open.

Local and federal law enforcement agencies are trying to do more to combat sex trafficking. But with an ever-increasing volume of survivors being collected, the patchwork of governmental, nonprofit and faith-based organizations that provide care are scrambling to keep up.

The faith-based Samaritan Women relies on grants and donations and does not accept government funding. Its 23 acres includes two restored mansions with the capacity to house, clothe and feed 14 women for up to two years.

The AP generally does not identify victims of sexual violence. Instead, the following women are identified by nicknames that were given to them at the house. Samaritan founder and executive director Jeanne Allert confirmed many of the details of the accounts published here.

For seven years, 27-year-old Button had been sold up and down the West Coast by a host of violent pimps, one of whom once drove her into the desert, dragged her out of the car and broke her nose and both of her eye sockets. Button says he bruised her ribs so badly that doctors told her they could identify the type of boot he'd been wearing. The reason: She asked to leave a strip club because she was feeling sick.

It wasn't always that way. Button grew up in a wealthy household on Long Island, with parents she says were always loving and supportive. Still, after dropping out of college and becoming addicted to what she describes as "risky behavior," Button's parents sent her to a rehabilitation facility in California, where she met a man who would become her first trafficker.

"That opened up a gate to a long, dark life," Button said.

When Button first came to Samaritan Women over a year ago, she said she was afraid of the ghosts she thought might inhabit the mansion hallways, and afraid to leave her parents, with whom Button had reconnected after years of estrangement.

Now she spends her time working on legislative issues surrounding human trafficking, and is earning a certification to become a counselor for at-risk youth.

"There are still some days that are a struggle," Button said. "The process of piecing things together that I don't want to remember is hard for me. But the longer I'm here, the more my mind is being put back together, the more I'm at peace."

Now 32, Genesis was offered her first hit of crack cocaine by her mother when she was 13. By 18, she had a criminal record. She spent her teenage years in and out of strip clubs before becoming the property of a violent pimp. By 21, Genesis had lost a baby and become addicted to drugs.

For years under a violent trafficker, Genesis said she was never allowed to leave his house. The rooms were bugged, the bathroom had no doors. She said her pimp used to tie her and other women he trafficked to a weight bench, beat them and starve them.

The legal system sent Genesis to Samaritan Women, where she's been living for six months. After three months, Genesis said she had only just begun to remember some of the trauma she suffered.

"I didn't know I was in hell," she said. "I thought it was just life. Over those years I was held hostage, shot at, beaten with a pistol. And somewhere in my sick mind I thought this is how life is supposed to be."

BILLS

From page A1

ville said senators chose to prioritize those four bills because they ran out of time to finalize the legislation at the end of the two-year session.

"I'm sure we'll see this issue come up again in the next session," Amber McCann said.

Dakota Moore, a state liaison with the NRA, said the group was "very disappointed" the bills weren't enacted but agreed with Snyder's assessment that signing only some measures would lead to incongruent laws.

"However, the NRA does believe that these bills have substantial merit and we will work to ensure expedient passage of the entire package in the early months of 2015."

Snyder also vetoed legislation that would have prorated fees for liquor licenses effective for less than nine months. A Senate Fiscal Agency analysis had predicted the move would cause an "indeterminate but likely minor" loss of revenue for the Liquor Control Commission and local law enforcement agencies, but Snyder said the commission estimated a $500,000-$600,000 annual reduction.

Snyder also expressed concern about a provision that would have let the state sanction businesses if they sell alcohol to minors or visibly intoxicated customers at least three times in the same building in a two-year period. The threshold currently applies to liquor licensees across several locations.

"That lessens the ability of the Commission to protect public health," Snyder wrote of the bill that had been passed easily in the GOP-controlled Legislature.

The measure's sponsor, Democratic Rep. Scott Dianda of Calumet, said he was "extremely disappointed" by the veto.

"By vetoing this bill, the governor is forcing many small businesses to pay an expense twice in one year, an expense many cannot afford. This is unfair to small businesses in our state and only deters them from building and growing in Michigan," he said.

Also Monday, he signed a law redirecting $5.5 million from a state autism fund to autism programs at universities and for autism-related family assistance services. The fund was created in 2012 to reimburse health insurance companies for the cost of benefits covering the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders. But insurers haven't filed nearly as many claims as expected.

hp SPORTS

Zaire to start for Irish in bowl game
Page B2

Harbaugh: Michigan got its 'man'

On Monday evening, Jim Harbaugh was somewhere in Ann Arbor or the metro Detroit area, being wined and dined by University of Michigan officials, boosters, and the like.

Jason Mitchell
Tuesday's Topics

He has reportedly signed his $48-$50 million contract, and is scheduled to be formally introduced as the school's next football coach today.

The Michigan fan base is awash in hope and glory, with visions of championships and fame at the top of their maize-colored minds.

Go Blue!

As a Michigan State Man, the lovey-dovey stuff is getting pretty thick.

As an observer of sports, I absolutely commend U-M on this hire and the process used to secure Mr. Harbaugh's services.

I honestly didn't think it would happen.

Interim Athletic Director Jim Hackett laid out a plan, got school officials on board, got around his Brinks truck full of cash, marshalled together past players from the Wolverines' glorious past, and put on a full-out assault to land Harbaugh.

The school appears to be coming out of its decade-long fog and getting its act together.

And U-M knows the risks involved, too. With that kind of cash and that effort, it knows it's basically handing over complete control to Harbaugh.

The expectations are high. So is the paycheck. For the Wolverine faithful, so are the rewards.

Two thoughts:

■ This mess isn't getting sorted out in one season.

■ The Big Ten's East Division is getting better by the year, and the other six divisional schools aren't afraid of the Wolverines or the Big House.

The rest of the league isn't going to bow down to Michigan. Those days are over.

Virginia isn't happy

On Monday, the Chicago Bears finally held some people accountable for their awful jobs by firing head coach Marc Trestman and general manager Phil Emery.

Two years ago, I lauded the hiring of Trestman, saying it was time for a new era for Bears football and a break from the stodgy, ineffective past that supported mediocrity for 25 years.

I gave myself an out, too, suggesting that the whole thing could blow up in the Bears' faces.

It did, in spectacular fashion.

What a disappointment, but the signs were there long ago. That defense hit rock-bottom and needs another off-season or two to fix.

Trestman was uneven in his handling of players, his playcalling ... pretty much everything.

By all accounts, Trestman and Emery worked very, very hard. They also failed.

During Monday afternoon's news conference, Bears Chairman of the Board George McCaskey was asked about his mother's role in the big changes that took place.

His mother, of course, is Virginia McCaskey, the

See **MITCHELL**, page B3

GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Watervliet uses outside shooting to beat Bridgman

By BEN SANDERS
HP Sports Writer

Watervliet 31
Bridgman 22

BRIDGMAN — In a defensive struggle, a few 3-pointers were enough to lift the Watervliet girls basketball team to victory.

The Panthers hit five shots from beyond the arc in a 31-22 win over Bridgman on Monday in the first round of the Bridgman holiday tournament.

Watervliet (5-1) will play Holland Black River at 7:30 p.m. today for the championship. Black River reached the finals with a 47-30 victory over White Pigeon, who will play Bridgman (1-4) in the 6 p.m. consolation game.

Watervliet is off to a strong start after finishing 9-11 last season.

"Definitely a good start," Watervliet coach Jeff Riley said. "We don't play at the level we need to every game. I think we play down to the competition.

"That Black River team's pretty tough. They put a lot of pressure on White Pigeon. It should be a battle. I think we're up to it. We've played a few good games, so I think we're due for a really good game."

Katie Schultz led Watervliet with 13 points, including three 3-pointers. Schultz hit 3s to close the first and second quarters, the latter giving the Panthers a 23-10 lead at the break.

Casie Gohr added 10 points for Watervliet, all in the first half. She had seven points during an early 12-0 run that put the Panthers in

See **HOOPS**, page B3

Matt Ludtke / AP

Detroit's Ndamukong Suh looks on during the first half of Sunday's game against Green Bay.

Same old Suh?

Lions lash out at defensive lineman's suspension for NFC Wild Card game

By DAVE BIRKETT
Detroit Free Press (TNS)

They were sitting in their meeting room, watching film of the Dallas Cowboys, when Jim Caldwell sneaked quietly in the back and pulled Ndamukong Suh outside to tell him the news.

Caldwell re-entered the room a few minutes later and let the rest of the Detroit Lions defensive line know what just happened: The NFL deemed Suh's step on Aaron Rodgers' left leg intentional and suspended him for this week's NFC wild-card game against the Cowboys.

Shock.

Silence.

Then back to the film.

"We're frustrated by the whole situation," defensive end Darryl Tapp said. "Like I said, we don't feel like it was intentional. We all know what kind of person Suh is. He hasn't been in any kind of trouble this year, so just something we got to take it as it comes and move forward."

Moving forward won't be easy this week as the Lions play just their second playoff game since the turn of the century against one of the most balanced offenses in the NFL without their most dominant defensive lineman and the heart of their No. 2-ranked defense.

Suh is appealing the suspension and has a hearing scheduled for Tuesday, but it's rare that a league-issued punishment is overturned.

Ed Reed in 2012 was the last player to have a suspension for a violation of player safety reversed on appeal. Ted Cottrell, the officer who heard Reed's case, is scheduled to adjudicate Suh's appeal as well.

"Hopefully he wins his appeal," safety James Ihedigbo said. "It sucks. I don't get it. I saw the play. Man, suspending guys. I don't know. I don't even know what's the take on it all year long with things like this that happened because it's a major blow. What happened to just fining guys?

"If you think they broke league

See **SUH**, page B3

Bears fire GM Phil Emery, coach Marc Trestman

By ANDREW SELIGMAN
AP Sports Writer

LAKE FOREST, Ill. — Fans were fed up and so was the team's matriarch.

The Chicago Bears made sweeping changes on Monday, firing general manager Phil Emery and coach Marc Trestman after missing the playoffs for the seventh time in eight years.

Trestman is out after going 13-19 in two seasons while Emery lasted just three years. The Bears went 5-11 in a mostly miserable season, never challenging for the NFC North lead after the first few weeks as quarterback Jay Cutler and the rest of the offense struggled mightily.

"We expect excellence," chairman George McCaskey said.

What they got was something different, and even

Nam Y. Huh / AP

Chicago Bears President and CEO Ted Phillips, left, and Chairman George H. McCaskey listen to question at a news conference at Halas Hall on Monday. Chicago coach Marc Trestman and general manager Phil Emery were fired Monday.

McCaskey's mother, Virginia McCaskey, had enough.

"She's (ticked) off," George McCaskey said after about a 10-second pause when asked about his mother. "I can't think of a 91-year-old woman that that description would apply to, but in this case, I can't think of a more accurate description. She's been on this Earth for eight of the Bears' nine championships, and she wants more. She feels that it's been too long since the last one, and that dissatisfaction is shared by her children, her grandchildren and her-great grandchildren. She's fed up with mediocrity. She feels that she and Bears fans everywhere deserve better."

TRESTMAN

EMERY

It was clear as the season wore on, with fan unrest growing, that change was

See **BEARS**, page B3

Done deal: U-M, Jim Harbaugh have signed agreement

By DAVID JESSE AND MARK SNYDER
Detroit Free Press (TNS)

Michigan officially has its man: Jim Harbaugh is coming back.

HARBAUGH

After weeks of speculation that he was the top target, that the Wolverines would have to fight off NFL teams and that U-M offered $8 million a season, Harbaugh has signed an agreement and will be introduced at a news conference at noon Tuesday as U-M's next football coach, two people within the university with knowledge of the negotiations told the Free Press Monday evening. They spoke on the condition of anonymity because U-M officials weren't authorized to speak publicly about the coaching search.

The former All-America quarterback who guaranteed - and delivered - a victory over Ohio State and led the Wolverines to the 1987 Rose Bowl is returning to the sideline at Michigan Stadium nearly 20 years later, this time as the program's 20th head coach.

From the moment Brady Hoke was fired Dec. 2 - and even before that in many eyes - Harbaugh, 51, was the first and overwhelming choice to resurrect a program that has missed a bowl three times and topped eight victories only once since Lloyd Carr retired after the 2007 season.

Harbaugh had the resume, the connections and the personal passion to restore his alma mater among the elite programs in college football.

Wolverine Nation spent the day waiting for official word that Harbaugh was the new coach. Sunday night, after the 49ers' last game, the team and its coach announced they mutually agreed to part ways. That removed the last hurdle, the final year of Harbaugh's five-year, $25-million contract.

Michigan, meanwhile, continued its radio silence. Interim athletic direct Jim Hackett and U-M spokesmen basically have declined all comment during the search for Hoke's replacement. The word from the

See **U-M**, page B3

In brief

Red Wings allow 45 shots in loss to Bruins

BOSTON (AP) — Carl Soderberg had a goal and two assists, and the Boston Bruins had a season-high 45 shots in a 5-2 win over the Detroit Red Wings on Monday night.

Reilly Smith, Gregory Campbell and Seth Griffin also scored for the Bruins, who were without two of their top forwards. Leading scorer Patrice Bergeron (7 goals, 20 assists) and Milan Lucic sat with undisclosed injuries, the first game either has missed this season.

The Bruins, who have dealt with a string of injuries through the first three months of the season, played one of their strongest games — short-handed or at full-strength.

Butler lead Bulls to 7th straight win

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Jimmy Butler had 27 points and nine rebounds to lead the Chicago Bulls to a 92-90 victory over the Indiana Pacers on Monday night.

Pau Gasol had 20 points and Derrick Rose added 17 for the Bulls (22-9), who have won seven straight.

Chris Copeland scored 13 of his 17 points in the fourth quarter, and George Hill and C.J. Miles each added 11 points for the Pacers (11-21), who trailed by as much as 21 points in the second half.

Butler scored a 3-pointer with 1:07 remaining to put the Bulls ahead for good 92-90.

That was after the Pacers went on a 23-2 run and regained the lead on Lavoy Allen's basket to make it 84-83 with 6:15 left in the fourth quarter.

Chicago tied the four-game season series with the Pacers at 1-1 and won for the first time at Indiana after losing the previous four games.

Davis wins AP Female Athlete of the Year

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Little League star Mo'ne Davis is The Associated Press 2014 Female Athlete of the Year.

A vote by U.S. editors and news directors selected Davis over second-place finisher Mt. St. Joseph freshman Lauren Hill — who played her first college basketball game while battling brain cancer — and three-time winner Serena Williams.

Davis, just 13, is the youngest winner ever. She became an instant celebrity in August when she became the first girl to win a Little League World Series game. In the opening game for Philadelphia's Taney Dragons, she threw a shutout and struck out eight, giving "throw like a girl" a whole new meaning.

Davis says baseball isn't her best sport. In eighth grade, she is currently playing point guard for her high school varsity basketball team.

Texas A&M beats WVU in Liberty Bowl

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Kyle Allen threw four touchdown passes and ran for a fifth score Monday, and Texas A&M erased an early 10-point deficit to defeat West Virginia 45-37 in the Liberty Bowl.

Allen went 22 of 35 for 294 yards and threw two touchdown passes to Malcome Kennedy and one each to Josh Reynolds and Trey Williams, who also had an 18-yard touchdown run. Allen's 14-yard rushing TD in the final minute of the first half put Texas A&M (8-5) ahead for good.

Tra Carson ran for a career-high 133 yards on 25 carries.

Airwaves

Television today

1:00 p.m. (ESPN2) **College Basketball** Iowa at Ohio State. (Live)
3:00 p.m. (ESPN) **College Football** Franklin American Mortgage Music City Bowl — Notre Dame vs. LSU. (Live)
(ESPN2) **College Basketball** Illinois at Michigan. (Live)
5:00 p.m. (ESPN2) **College Basketball** Maryland at Michigan State. (Live)
6:30 p.m. (ESPN) **College Football** Belk Bowl — Georgia vs. Louisville. (Live)
7:00 p.m. (ESPN2) **College Basketball** Florida at Florida State. (Live)
(FoxDetroit) **NBA Basketball** Detroit Pistons at Orlando Magic. (Live)
8:00 p.m. (Bigten) **College Wrestling** Midlands Championship. From Evanston, Ill. (Live)
(Csnch) **NBA Basketball** Brooklyn Nets at Chicago Bulls. (Live)
9:00 p.m. (ESPN2) **College Basketball** Missouri vs. Oklahoma State. (Live)
10:00 p.m. (ESPN) **College Football** Foster Farms Bowl — Maryland vs. Stanford. (Live)

Wednesday

12:00 p.m. (FS1) **College Basketball** St. John's at Seton Hall. (Live) CC
12:30 p.m. (ESPN) **College Football** Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl — Mississippi vs. Texas Christian. (Live)
1:00 p.m. (Bigten) **College Basketball** Penn State at Wisconsin. T(Live)
(ESPN2) **College Basketball** Temple at Connecticut. (Live)
2:00 p.m. (Csnch) **College Basketball** Bradley at Loyola-Chicago. (Live)
2:30 p.m. (FS1) **College Basketball** Butler at Villanova. (Live)
3:00 p.m. (FoxDetroit) **College Basketball** Wofford at Duke. (Live)
3:15 p.m. (Bigten) **College Basketball** Minnesota at Purdue. (Live)
4:00 p.m. (Csnch) **College Basketball** Indiana State at Illinois State. (Live)
4:10 p.m. (ESPN) **College Football** Vizio Fiesta Bowl — Arizona vs. Boise State. (Live)
5:00 p.m. (ESPN2) **College Basketball** South Florida at Southern Methodist. (Live)
(FS1) **College Basketball** Marquette at DePaul. (Live) CC
5:30 p.m. (Bigten) **College Basketball** Indiana at Nebraska. (Live)
7:30 p.m. (FoxDetroit) **NHL Hockey** New Jersey Devils at Detroit Red Wings. (Live)
(FS1) **College Basketball** Creighton at Providence. (Live) CC
8:10 p.m. (ESPN) **College Football** Capital One Orange Bowl — Georgia Tech vs. Mississippi State. (Live)
10:00 p.m. (FS1) **College Basketball** Georgetown at Xavier. (Live) CC

Radio today

3 p.m.
College basketball — Illinois at Michigan (WSJM-AM, 1400)
College football — Music City Bowl, Notre Dame vs. LSU (WNSN-FM, 101.5)
5 p.m.
College basketball — Maryland at Michigan State (WCSY-FM, 103.7)
8 p.m.
NBA — Nets at Bulls (WMVP-AM, 1000)

Wednesday

No area events scheduled.

Contact us

The Herald-Palladium sports desk is staffed after 7 p.m. nightly. Coaches or managers are asked to report results as soon as possible the evening of the event for publication in the next day's edition.

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Youth over experience

Zaire to start at QB for Notre Dame against No. 22 LSU

By TERESA M. WALKER
AP Sports Writer

Mark J. Terrill / AP

Notre Dame quarterback Malik Zaire, right, is sacked by Southern California linebacker J.R. Tavai during the second half of their game on Nov. 29.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Notre Dame coach Brian Kelly did his best to keep his starting quarterback a mystery for the Music City Bowl, even teasing that he would knock twice for sophomore Malik Zaire and once for senior Everett Golson.

On Monday, Kelly finally announced he's going with youth over experience. Zaire will make his first career start against No. 22 LSU and the Southeastern Conference's toughest defense.

"I want to put Malik in a position and really challenge him and put him in this kind of environment," Kelly said. "He's playing against a great defense in LSU and we'll learn a lot about him tomorrow."

The Fighting Irish were ranked as high as fifth nationally with Golson leading them to a 6-0 start before a four-game skid as they lost five of their final six games. Kelly wound up benching Golson in their 49-14 season-ending loss at Southern California. The coach says he liked how Zaire practiced over the past month running his spread offense preparing for this bowl.

"Now he has to go do it when the lights are on," Kelly said.

This is the first trip to this bowl for both Notre Dame (7-5) and LSU (8-4), a change of scenery for such storied programs and far different from their last meeting in the 2007 Sugar Bowl. The Tigers won that game 41-14, and LSU coach Les Miles says the matchup is strong enough he expects no letdown from his team.

"Our guys are fired up," Miles said.

Neither Notre Dame (7-5) nor LSU (8-4) had the seasons they wanted after being ranked in the top 10 early this season before the losses started. The tough Southeastern Conference Western Division cost the Tigers all four of their losses. The Fighting Irish now are completely out of the Top 25.

Being matched in this bowl, sponsored by Franklin American Mortgage, offers that final chance at a win going into the offseason. LSU at least beat Texas A&M 23-17 in College Station, while Notre Dame has stewed since being routed by USC.

"When something like that happens, you just want to get on the field as soon as possible and show what you're made of," Notre Dame left guard Nick Martin said.

Here are a few things to watch Tuesday:

IRISH QUARTERBACKS: With Golson starting 12 games at quarterback, the Irish rank 16th nationally averaging 293.8 yards passing per game. But Zaire is an even bigger threat to run, which can make Kelly's spread offense more potent. Notre Dame averaged only 150.8 yards rushing this season, 81st in the country.

STINGY TIGERS: The LSU Tigers led the SEC and ranked eighth nationally in total defense allowing only 305.8 yards per game, and they are even tougher to score against. They rank third nationally allowing 16.4 points per game, and they also are fourth allowing 162.3 yards passing per game. They allowed quarterbacks to complete only 50.4 percent of their passes.

IRISH BOUNCE BACK: Notre Dame wants to stop the skid after losing four straight and five of the final six. Three of those losses were by four points or less, which doesn't ease the sting any. LSU will be the fourth ranked team the Irish have played. "We couldn't do it in the regular season," Robinson said. "Now we've had the past month to rest, recover and come back strong. Hit the film room and really assess what went wrong and look for solutions. ... We're prepared."

LSU'S YOUTH: Miles put some of the nation's No. 2 recruiting class to work immediately, playing 17 true freshmen with six starters. That puts the Tigers second in the SEC only to Tennessee. They helped score 19 of LSU's 39 touchdowns this season led by running back Leonard Fournette who ran for eight TDs.

PROTECT THE BALL: Golson threw for 29 touchdowns and ran for eight more. But one of the reasons Zaire is starting is that the senior also turned the ball over 22 times intercepted 14 times while losing eight of 12 fumbles. That number caught LSU senior defensive end Jermauria Rasco by surprise. "I didn't know he had that many," Rasco said. "But if he giving them out like that, hopefully we get a few of them."

Handful of coaching openings to fill

By BARRY WILNER
AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK — OK, it is done.

Rex Ryan and John Idzik are out with the Jets. The Bears canned Marc Trestman and Phil Emery. Mike Smith was fired in Atlanta.

It wasn't as bloody as some past Black Mondays, but the ax swung swiftly on them. Throw in the two coaching openings in the Bay Area, and there's plenty of searching ahead for team owners in New York, Chicago, Atlanta, San Francisco and Oakland.

What should they look for and who might fit the bill? Let's look.

NEW YORK JETS

A wise former football writer always stressed that the most important position in pro football is owner. A case in point, he'd say, was this team, which has fallen short in competing with the local rival Giants, whose ownership is considered among the most stable, patient and insightful.

Two years after hiring Idzik, owner Woody Johnson fired him, in great part because the talent level has fallen so precipitously in the GM's short regime. It was Idzik's work in free agency and the draft — of course, Ryan had a hand in those moves, too — that doomed him when the Jets went 4-12 and missed the playoffs for a fourth consecutive year.

New York needs to solve its quarterback woes first, particularly because there is some talent elsewhere on offense. It should seek a head coach or offensive coordinator who has a history of success grooming QBs.

And it should get a GM with experience in the job who can deal with a flighty owner.

ATLANTA FALCONS

Smith's tenure hardly was a flop. His 66 wins in seven seasons are the most for any Falcons coach, including five straight winning seasons; the Falcons never had even two successive winning records before he arrived.

But Arthur Blank, considered one of the better owners in the league, not only saw a 10-22 record in 2013-2014, but the no-show against Carolina on Sunday with the division title on the line.

Living in a weak division gives the Falcons a quicker chance to turn it around, but they need a running game to complement the passing offense, and they need drastic improvement on defense, supposedly Smith's strength.

Blank indicated there could be other changes, and GM Thomas Dimitroff could be in trouble. For now, look for Atlanta to grab someone a bit more fiery who can mend the defense.

Did someone say Rex Ryan? Probably not.

OAKLAND RAIDERS

Dennis Allen was fired early in the season, and Tony Sparano managed to win three games with an undertalented team. So many of the free agency moves by GM Reggie McKenzie backfired; that same wise former football writer said McKenzie's signing built a powerhouse for 2009, not for 2014.

Raiders owner Mark Davis would like to make a big splash, and was enamored of the idea of persuading Jim Harbaugh to cross the Bay. Barring that, and with the coordinator promotion route not working since Jon Gruden left, look for Davis to go after a well-known coach who also could get personnel control.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

The jewel of the open jobs, although some might wonder why if a coach such as Harbaugh couldn't stick it out there with so much success during his tenure. Given the discord that helped ruin a talented team's season — as did injuries — GM Trent Baalke and CEO Jed York might be in the market for someone less independent.

For continuity, the Niners could opt for promoting popular line coach Jim Tomsula, a loyal soldier.

And, sorry to sound like a broken record, but whoever takes over must reverse the regression of the quarterback, Colin Kaepernick.

Wisconsin clear Big Ten favorite

By ERIC OLSON
AP Sports Writer

After the way the nonconference season played out, a lot of Big Ten teams are glad to get a fresh start as the new year arrives.

The conference had a dozen embarrassing losses in November and December, notably New Jersey Institute of Technology's upset at Michigan and Incarnate Word's stunner at Nebraska.

Is the league in a bit of a funk? Only Wisconsin (No. 4), Maryland (No. 12) and Ohio State (No. 20) are in the Top 25 this week. A year ago, three of the top five teams were from the Big Ten, and six teams appeared in the Top 25 at least one week in 2013-14.

Preseason favorite Wisconsin (12-1) is right on track as Big Ten play begins Tuesday. The fourth-ranked Badgers have beaten everybody they should — their only loss was to No. 2 Duke — and they're allowing just 52 points a game.

Ohio State (11-2) is beating opponents by an average of 26.8 points, second-best in the nation, but the Buckeyes' wins have come against undistinguished competition.

Michigan State (9-4) need not be ashamed of losses to nationally ranked Duke, Notre Dame and Kansas. The Spartans, however, will have a hard time living down a seven-point loss to Texas Southern.

YOUTH GYMNASTICS

Gymnastics on the Grand
Dec. 5-7
Level 3 Team third place
Megan Binkley vault 8.9 7th, bar 8.5, beam 8.275, floor 8.850, All around 34.525
Emma Gould vault 8.8, bar 7.650, bean 8.875, floor 8.8, All around 34.125
McKenna Keim vault 9.250 1st, bar 8.475, beam 9.4 1st, floor 9.250, All around 36.375 1st
Parker Keim vault 8.775 6th, bar 8.775 2nd, beam 8.0, floor 9.0 3rd, All around 34.550 4th
Anna Weber vault 9.1 3rd, bar 7.450, beam 9.1 1st, floor 9.150 5th, All around 34.8 7th
Gabi Wiskow vault 9.3 3rd, bar 9.0 3rd, beam 9.225 1st, floor 8.975 5th, All around 36.5 2nd

Level 4 Team second place
Tatiana Beran vault 8.775 6th, bar 7.750, beam 8.775 5th, floor 8.950 5th, All around 34.250 6th
Elizabeth Choe vault 9.175 1st, bar 7.6, beam 9.050 3rd, floor 9.350 2nd, All around 35.175 3rd
Sam Ebbert vault 8.8 6th, bar 8.7 5th, beam 8.9, All around 26.4
Ellie Haygood vault 9.350 1st, bar 8.3 4th, beam 9.150 1st, floor 9.25 1st, All around 36.125 1st
Annike Jorgensen vault 8.350, bar 8.2, beam 9.450 1st, floor 9.325 3rd, all around 35.325 4th
Abbi Kalin vault 8.15, bar 7.650 6th, beam 8.65 6th, floor 8.5, All around 32.950
Nadia Muniz vault 9.050 2nd, bar 6.750, beam 8.175, floor 8.525, All around 32.5
Mallaigh Phelan vault 9.425 1st, bar 8.8 2nd, beam 9.150 2nd, floor 9.650 1st, all around 37.025 1st
Sydney Ward vault 8.850 4th, bar 8.525 6th, beam 8.450, floor 9.4 2nd, All around 35.225 5th
Eryn Williams vault 9.075 1st, bar 8.2 3rd, beam 9.1 2nd, floor 9.475 1st, All around 35.850 1st

Level 5 team third place
Nadia Arend vault 9.250 4th, bar 9.1 5th, beam 9.2 1st, floor 9.5 2nd, All around 37.050 2nd
Brooke Gelesko 9.050, bar 9.050 6th, beam 8.775 6th, floor 9.1 8th, All around 35.975 6th
Dani Morrill 9.250 2nd, bar 9.150 2nd, beam 9.0 1st, floor 8.950 3rd, All around 36.350 2nd

Level 6
Emily Greenman vault 9.075 5th, bar 7.550, beam 8.675, floor 8.875, All around 34.175

Level 7
McKenzie Gerald vault 8.925 4th, bar n/a, beam 9.150 4th, floor 9.150 4th, All around 27.225
Sydney Hill vault 8.7, bar 7.250, beam 8.85 5th, floor 9.250 2nd, All around 34.050
Hunter Jorgensen vault 8.450, bar 7.975, beam 7.850, floor 8.8, All around 33.075
Katya Proctor vault 9.2 1st, bar 9.3 2nd, beam 9.125 1st, floor 8.375, All around 36.00 3rd

BOWLING

LAKESHORE LANES
SHORELINE BUSINESSMEN — Paul Zdanis 734 (256), Ronald Clark 674 (257), Tyson Hein 662, Lance Harris 654 (254), Al Slavens 638 (266); Team: Get A Way Saloon 2990.

NFL

Playoffs
All Times EST
Wild-card Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 3
Arizona at Carolina, 4:35 p.m. (ESPN)
Baltimore at Pittsburgh, 8:15 p.m. (NBC)
Sunday, Jan. 4
Cincinnati at Indianapolis, 1:05 (CBS)
Detroit at Dallas, 4:40 p.m. (FOX)
Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 10
Baltimore, Indianapolis or Cincinnati at New England, 4:35 p.m. (NBC)
Arizona, Detroit or Carolina at Seattle, 8:15 p.m. (FOX)
Sunday, Jan. 11
Arizona, Dallas or Carolina at Green Bay, 1:05 p.m. (FOX)
Indianapolis, Cincinnati or Pittsburgh at Denver, 4:40 p.m. (CBS)
Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 18
NFC, 3:05 p.m. (FOX)
AFC, 6:40 p.m. (CBS)
Pro Bowl
Sunday, Jan. 25
At Glendale, Ariz.
Team Irvin vs. Team Carter, 8 p.m. (ESPN)
Super Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 1
At Glendale, Ariz.
AFC champion vs. NFC champion, 6:30 p.m. (NBC)

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	38	23	11	4	50	122	99
Montreal	36	23	11	2	48	98	85
Detroit	37	19	9	9	47	105	94
Toronto	37	20	14	3	43	124	111
Boston	37	19	15	3	41	98	99
Florida	33	16	9	8	40	79	86
Ottawa	36	15	14	7	37	97	99
Buffalo	37	14	20	3	31	75	123

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	36	22	9	5	49	109	86
N.Y. Islanders	36	24	11	1	49	112	101
Washington	36	18	11	7	43	105	94
N.Y. Rangers	33	19	10	4	42	100	84
Philadelphia	35	14	15	6	34	98	105
Columbus	34	15	16	3	33	86	109
New Jersey	38	13	18	7	33	82	108
Carolina	36	10	22	4	24	72	98

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Chicago	36	24	10	2	50	112	74
Nashville	34	23	9	2	48	99	71
St. Louis	36	22	11	3	47	106	90
Winnipeg	37	19	11	7	45	94	87
Minnesota	34	17	13	4	38	99	95
Dallas	34	15	14	5	35	99	116
Colorado	36	13	15	8	34	92	109

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Anaheim	38	24	8	6	54	107	101
Vancouver	34	20	11	3	43	100	93
Los Angeles	36	18	11	7	43	100	89
San Jose	36	19	12	5	43	100	93
Calgary	37	19	15	3	41	108	99
Arizona	35	13	18	4	30	82	113
Edmonton	36	7	22	7	21	76	125

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.
Sunday's Games
Florida 6, Toronto 4
Anaheim 2, Vancouver 1, OT
Monday's Games
Boston 5, Detroit 2
New Jersey 3, Pittsburgh 1
N.Y. Islanders 4, Washington 3, OT
Montreal 3, Carolina 1
Ottawa 5, Buffalo 2
Tampa Bay 3, Toronto 2
St. Louis 3, Colorado 0
Minnesota 3, Winnipeg 2
Nashville at Chicago
N.Y. Rangers at Dallas
Los Angeles at Calgary
Philadelphia at Arizona
Today's Games
Montreal at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
St. Louis at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Los Angeles at Edmonton, 9:30 p.m.
Vancouver at San Jose, 10 p.m.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	24	7	.774	—
Brooklyn	14	16	.467	9½
Boston	10	18	.357	12½
New York	5	28	.152	20
Philadelphia	4	25	.138	19

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	22	8	.733	—
Washington	21	8	.724	½
Miami	14	18	.438	9
Orlando	13	21	.382	11
Charlotte	10	22	.313	13

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	22	9	.710	—
Cleveland	18	12	.600	3½
Milwaukee	16	16	.500	6½
Indiana	11	21	.344	11½
Detroit	7	23	.233	14½

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	22	8	.733	—
Houston	21	8	.724	½
Dallas	22	10	.688	1
San Antonio	19	13	.594	4
New Orleans	15	15	.500	7

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	25	7	.781	—
Oklahoma City	15	17	.469	10
Denver	13	18	.419	11½
Utah	10	20	.333	14
Minnesota	5	24	.172	18½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	24	5	.828	—
L.A. Clippers	20	11	.645	5
Phoenix	18	14	.563	7½
Sacramento	13	18	.419	12
L.A. Lakers	9	22	.290	16

Sunday's Games
Detroit 103, Cleveland 80
San Antonio 110, Houston 106
Dallas 112, Oklahoma City 107
Portland 101, New York 79
Toronto 116, Denver 102
Phoenix 116, L.A. Lakers 107
Monday's Games
Chicago 92, Indiana 90
Milwaukee 104, Charlotte 94, OT
Orlando 102, Miami 101
Brooklyn 107, Sacramento 99
Washington at Houston
Utah at L.A. Clippers
Today's Games
Detroit at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Cleveland at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Phoenix at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Brooklyn at Chicago, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Washington at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Denver, 9 p.m.
Minnesota at Utah, 9 p.m.
Toronto at Portland, 10 p.m.
Philadelphia at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

BULLS 92, PACERS 90

CHICAGO (92)
Dunleavy 3-5 1-1 8, Gasol 7-14 6-6 20, Noah 2-7 2-2 6, Rose 5-20 6-6 17, Butler 8-20 9-12 27, Gibson 2-6 3-4 7, Brooks 0-4 2-2 2, Mirotic 2-4 0-0 5, Snell 0-0 0-0 0, Moore 0-4 0-0 0. Totals 29-84 29-33 92.
INDIANA (90)
S.Hill 3-7 3-6 10, West 5-8 0-0 10, Hibbert 3-8 0-1 6, G.Hill 4-11 2-2 11, Stuckey 2-5 1-1 5, Miles 4-11 1-2 11, Scola 4-8 2-4 10, Allen 3-8 0-1 6, Watson 1-7 2-2 4, Copeland 7-10 2-2 17. Totals 36-83 13-21 90.

Chicago	**22**	**25**	**34**	**11**	**— 92**
Indiana	**17**	**18**	**30**	**25**	**— 90**

3-Point Goals—Chicago 5-13 (Butler 2-2, Mirotic 1-1, Dunleavy 1-2, Rose 1-7, Moore 0-1), Indiana 5-13 (Miles 2-3, Copeland 1-1, S.Hill 1-3, G.Hill 1-3, Watson 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Chicago 60 (Dunleavy 10), Indiana 54 (Scola, Allen 8). Assists—Chicago 17 (Rose 6), Indiana 18 (Allen 5). Total Fouls—Chicago 16, Indiana 25. Technicals—Gibson, Chicago Coach Thibodeau. A—18,165 (18,165).

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

The Top Twenty Five
The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Dec. 28, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and last week's ranking:

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Kentucky (65)	13-0	1,625	1
2. Duke	10-0	1,559	2
3. Virginia	11-0	1,457	5
4. Wisconsin	12-1	1,395	6
5. Louisville	11-1	1,327	4
6. Villanova	12-0	1,316	7
7. Gonzaga	12-1	1,249	8
8. Arizona	12-1	1,243	3
9. Iowa St.	9-1	1,005	12
10. Utah	9-2	956	14
11. Texas	10-2	903	9
12. Maryland	12-1	869	15
13. Kansas	9-2	775	10
14. Notre Dame	12-1	709	16
15. St. John's	11-1	690	17
16. Wichita St.	10-2	630	11
17. West Virginia	11-1	584	18
18. Oklahoma	8-3	530	19
19. North Carolina	9-3	483	20
20. Ohio St.	11-2	435	21
21. Washington	11-1	253	13
22. Baylor	10-1	238	22
23. N. Iowa	11-1	216	23
24. Colorado St.	13-0	194	24
25. Georgetown	8-3	140	—

Others receiving votes: TCU 132, VCU 101, San Diego St. 40, Arkansas 27, George Washington 7, LSU 7, Old Dominion 7, Penn St. 5, UNLV 5, Indiana 4, Florida 2, Minnesota 2, Stanford 2, Army 1, California 1, Davidson 1.

Monday's Scores
EAST
Boston College 70, Mass.-Lowell 47
Boston U. 69, Wentworth 46
Fairleigh Dickinson 85, Towson 84, OT
Quinnipiac 81, Maine 64
Rider 76, Wagner 71
SOUTH
Charleston Southern 81, Johnson 47
Chattanooga 78, Lipscomb 60
Duke 86, Toledo 69
FIU 76, Florida A&M 55
LSU 87, Southern Miss. 67
NC Central 70, IUPUI 49
Old Dominion 69, Mount St. Mary's 35
Tennessee Tech 87, North Florida 84
VCU 72, Cleveland St. 63
Valparaiso 79, James Madison 52
W. Kentucky 104, Alice Lloyd 62
MIDWEST
Chicago St. 69, Nebraska-Omaha 66
Illinois St. 99, Quincy 57
Miami (Ohio) 69, Capital 46
N. Illinois 83, Hampton 51
SOUTHWEST
Morehead St. 95, Cent. Arkansas 60
SMU 70, Midwestern St. 61
Sam Houston St. 102, Howard Payne 47
TCU 60, Tennessee St. 40
Texas 66, Rice 55
Texas Tech 60, North Texas 45
FAR WEST
Pepperdine 69, Loyola Marymount 56

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Bowls
Monday, Dec. 29
Liberty Bowl
At Memphis, Tenn.
Texas A&M 45, West Virginia 37
Russell Athletic Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Clemson 40, Oklahoma 6
Texas Bowl
At Houston
Texas (6-6) vs. Arkansas (6-6)
Tuesday, Dec. 30
Music City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
Notre Dame (7-5) vs. LSU (8-4), 3 p.m. (ESPN)
Belk Bowl
At Charlotte, N.C.
Louisville (9-3) vs. Georgia (9-3), 6:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Fosters Farm Bowl
At Santa Clara, Calif.
Stanford (7-5) vs. Maryland (7-5), 10 p.m. (ESPN)
Wednesday, Dec. 31
Peach Bowl
At Atlanta
Mississippi (9-3) vs. TCU (11-1), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Fiesta Bowl
At Glendale, Ariz.
Boise State (11-2) vs. Arizona (10-3), 4 p.m. (ESPN)
Orange Bowl
At Miami Gardens, Fla.
Mississippi State (10-2) vs. Georgia Tech (10-3), 8 p.m. (ESPN)
Thursday, Jan. 1
Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
Wisconsin (10-3) vs. Auburn (8-4), Noon (ESPN2)
Cotton Bowl Classic
At Arlington, Texas
Michigan State (10-2) vs. Baylor (11-1), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Citrus Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Minnesota (8-4) vs. Missouri (10-3), 1 p.m. (ABC)
Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
Playoff semifinal: Oregon (12-1) vs. Florida State (13-0), 5 p.m. (ESPN)
Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans
Playoff semifinal: Alabama (12-1) vs. Ohio State (12-1), 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Narduzzi's curtain call

MSU defensive coordinator faces challenge in final game with Spartans

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
AP Sports Writer

DALLAS — Michigan State defensive coordinator Pat Narduzzi is in for quite a curtain call.

The Spartans, a top-10 defense for the fourth season in a row, play high-powered Baylor at the Cotton Bowl in Narduzzi's final game before he takes over as Pittsburgh's head coach.

"It's almost surreal, but you're excited for him. ... He deserves it, and you know it's his dream job," cornerback Trae Waynes said. "The only thing you can really do is just be supportive, and just enjoy the time you have left with him."

Even after taking his new job last week at the school about an hour from where he grew up, Narduzzi wanted to finish this season with coach Mark Dantonio and the Spartans (10-2).

"If I didn't come down here and coach in this bowl game, I'd be letting every one of these 115 guys down and the rest of the staff down, and, oh gosh, Coach D. That's what it's all about," he said. "It's about these kids and how hard they worked to get in this game. It's all about this game."

Narduzzi has spent 11 seasons on Dantonio's staff, the last eight at Michigan State after three seasons at Cincinnati, though he had other opportunities before now to take other jobs. This is their 10th bowl game together.

Florida is the only other team to finish in the top 10 in total defense every season since 2011, a feat that Michigan State is trying to match. The Spartans finished this season seventh, allowing 294 total yards per game.

Two-time Big 12 champion Baylor (11-1) again has the nation's top offense, averaging 581 yards and 49 points a game. While the Bears run a spread offense, with quarterback Bryce Petty throwing for 3,305 yards with 26 touchdowns and only six interceptions, Shock Linwood (1,228 yards rushing, 16 TDs) gave Baylor a 1,000-yard rusher for the fifth season in a row.

"It's a great challenge," Narduzzi said. "That's what we coach for."

After Michigan State is done Thursday in the Cotton Bowl, Narduzzi will stay in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, where Pitt plays Friday against Houston in the Armed Forces Bowl.

When the Spartans gathered in Dallas over the weekend to begin preparations for the bowl, Narduzzi said the players congratulated him before they turned their focus to preparing for the Bears. Defensive end Marcus Rush said the Spartans will miss Narduzzi's schemes and passion for the game.

"You're just proud he had the opportunities he had because of how hard he's worked over the years," All-Big Ten end Shilique Calhoun said. "A lot of people don't see it, and we don't get to see all the hard work he put in. ... He's so selfless. It's not about him. He wants it to be about his players."

And those players want to give Narduzzi another victory, and finish top 10 again, as a parting gift.

HOOPS

From page B1

control.

"The first half, we played well," Riley said. "We got the momentum at the end of the first half with a 3, but we struggled in the second half. We had a lot of shots in and out. We were getting a lot of good looks, just weren't knocking them down in the second half. Overall, I think Bridgman played us tough."

Bridgman adjusted its defense to focus on Schultz in the second half, and held Watervliet to just eight points.

"They hit some shots early," Bridgman coach Todd Hendricks said. "We made some nice adjustments at halftime and won the second half. It was good for us to come out and compete like that. We played our best game of the year so far."

Kelsey Gnodtke led Bridgman with 11 points and 11 rebounds. The Bees held a 49-34 advantage on the boards, but struggled to turn second-chance opportunities into points.

"We missed some open layups where the game could be different," Hendricks said. "We've got things we've got to work on, but we're getting better all the time so I appreciate that out of the girls."

WATERVLIET 31, BRIDGMAN 22

WATERVLIET (31)
Casie Gohr 4 1-2 10, Katie Schultz 4 2-5 13, Jayden McMiller 0 1-2 1, Lexi Kieft 1 0-0 3, Kara Liles 1 0-1 2, Logan Mizwicki 1 0-4 2. Totals: 11 4-14 31.
BRIDGMAN (22)
Alex Ansinn 1 0-0 2, Jordan Jones 1 2-2 4, Julie Jasper 0 1-2 1, Jasmine Jones 0 2-2 2, Ashley Crowder 0 2-2 2, Kelsey Gnodtke 5 1-4 11. Totals: 7 8-12 22.

Watervliet	**15**	**8**	**4**	**4**	**— 31**
Bridgman	**4**	**6**	**4**	**8**	**— 22**

3-point goals — Watervliet 5 (Schultz 3, Gohr, Kieft), Bridgman none. Total fouls — Watervliet 9, Bridgman 15. Fouled out — none. Technical fouls — none. Rebounds — Bridgman 49 (Gnodtke 11, Crowder 9, Jo. Jones 8), Watervliet 34 (Mizwicki 8, McMiller 8).
Records — Watervliet 5-1, Bridgman 1-4.

Contact: bsanders@TheHP.com, 932-0366, Twitter: @HPBenSanders.

U-M

From page B1

Wolverines has been simple: When we have something to announce, we will announce it.

In the early evening darkness, Harbaugh arrived in a chartered jet at Detroit Metro Airport. He wore a Michigan hat and smiled and waved to media members as a caravan of six cars left a private hanger at 6 p.m. and traveled to an airport hotel, which was reached 15 minutes later. There, the coach, his family and Hackett immediately unpacked their vehicles and entered the hotel.

Asked whether he wanted to make a comment, Harbaugh declined. "I think we'll have some comments tomorrow," he added, smiling.

About 7 p.m., U-M decided it had something to announce. A news release said Hackett would meet with the media at the Junge Family Champions Center "to make a major announcement" about the football program. The release provided no other details and did not mention Harbaugh.

After the noon news conference, U-M intends to introduce Harbaugh to fans during its 3 p.m. basketball game at Crisler Center. In anticipation of that event, tickets for the Big Ten opener with Illinois sold out Sunday.

Hackett has kept everything on the quiet, so much so that his coaches know not to discuss what they might know.

"We've had some contact and he's kept me in the loop of what's going on," basketball coach John Beilein told reporters earlier Monday in his regular news conference. "I'd probably get fired if I told you what's going on, so he's kept me in the loop just enough. He and I will talk. I think he's certainly done a good job thus far and I think everybody is excited how, in a very difficult time, has handled all this adversity."

The leader of U-M's six-player recruiting class, Birmingham Brother Rice quarterback Alex Malzone, called the Michigan football offices and was given "99.9. percent" assurance that Harbaugh would be the next coach.

Malzone, who will move to U-M as an early enrollee with Saginaw receiver Brian Cole on Sunday, said the expectation had him and the other commits who remained solid buzzing in a group chat Monday.

"Everything that everyone is saying looking like it's definitely happening," Malzone told the Free Press. "It's great timing for him coming in. I know I'm going to love playing under him and love playing for him. I know the success having him with his mindset and competitive edge."

BEARS

From page B1

coming. The question was how far up the ladder it would go.

The Bears also fired offensive coordinator Aaron Kromer. Defensive coordinator Mel Tucker is still officially under contract, although he is expected to be let go given the way the Bears struggled under him the past two seasons.

The Bears hired former New York Giants general manager Ernie Accorsi as a consultant to help with the search for a general manager and coach.

But ultimately, it will be McCaskey and President and CEO Ted Phillips making the call.

"This job was an opportunity of a lifetime," Emery said in a brief session with reporters. "My only regret is that we didn't win enough games for that opportunity to continue."

Emery did not take questions from reporters.

Trestman, in a statement issued through the team, thanked the McCaskey family for the opportunity to coach the Bears.

McCaskey said he is happy with the current chain of command, which has the coach reporting to the GM and the GM to the president. He said the McCaskey family has "complete faith" in Phillips but did not rule out the possibility of removing him from the football side of the operation.

Phillips said there is no timeline for the hires but did say the Bears would move with a "sense of urgency." Accorsi has already provided a list of GM candidates. The Bears did not rule out hiring a coach first.

The new GM and coach have a big decision to make with quarterback Jay Cutler. He tied Philip Rivers for the league lead with 18 interceptions after signing a $126 million, seven-year contract at the end of last season.

The deal, which guaranteed $54 million, would make him difficult if not impossible to trade. Cutting him is also a possibility.

Phillips said that will be up to the new GM and coach. But McCaskey insisted he does not regret giving Cutler that huge deal.

"That was a decision that Phil made with our approval," he said.

Phillips said he does not expect any players to meet with potential coaching candidates as Cutler did during the last search.

The house cleaning was certainly not what the Bears envisioned with a prolific offense returning intact and a rebuilt defense in tow. But little went right for Chicago this season.

There were distractions throughout the year, whether it was linebacker Lance Briggs being allowed to miss practice to open a restaurant in California the week of the opener, Kromer admitting he was the NFL Network's source behind a critical report of Cutler late in the season or Cutler getting benched in favor Jimmy Clausen late in the season.

Trestman surprised some by allowing star receiver Brandon Marshall to fly to New York on a weekly basis to record Showtime's "Inside the NFL." Marshall, who is open about his struggles with borderline personality disorder, had an off year and at one point gave a rambling news conference over past allegations of domestic abuse. He also challenged a Detroit fan on Twitter to a boxing match for charity, and reporters standing in the hallway overheard him screaming in the locker room after a loss to Miami at Soldier Field in October that raised all sorts of questions about where the team was headed.

SUH

From page B1

policy, fine guys and move on and be over with it. But suspending him? It's definitely a loss, but we've been able to do it all year with next man stepping in, we're going to have to do it this week."

The NFL did not cite Suh's history as a repeat violator in announcing his suspension like it did when it suspended Dominic Raiola one game last week for jumping on the ankle of Chicago Bears defensive tackle Ego Ferguson.

Instead, the league pointed to the incident itself, which happened midway through the fourth quarter of Sunday's 30-20 regular-season-ending loss to the Green Bay Packers, as reason for punishment.

After Rodgers was knocked to the ground on the play, Suh stepped on his left leg twice, first with his left foot, then with his right, and applied "pressure and unnecessarily (pushed) off Rodgers' unprotected leg" the second time, according to the NFL.

"You did not respond in the manner of someone who had lost his balance and accidentally contacted another player who was lying on the ground," NFL vice president of football operations Merton Hanks wrote in a letter to Suh explaining the punishment. "This illegal contact, specifically the second step and push off with your left foot, clearly could have been avoided."

Lions coach Jim Caldwell declined to share his personal opinion of the incident at his weekly news conference before the punishment was announced Monday.

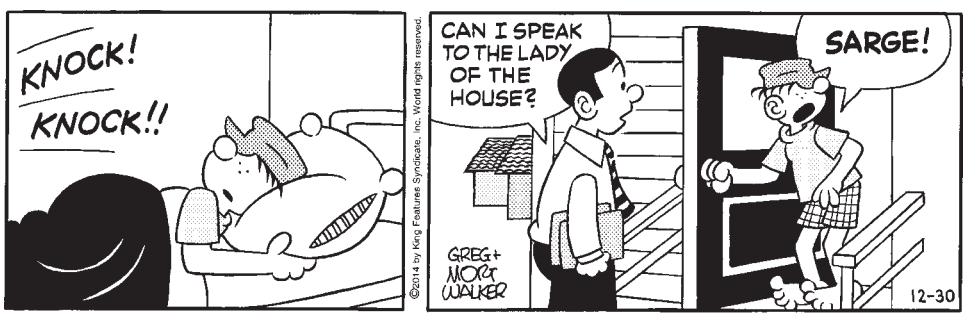
"Personal views don't matter in this particular case," Caldwell said.

Suh, who's been fined seven times and suspended once for previous violations of player safety, did not address the play after Sunday's game and did not respond to a text message seeking comment Monday.

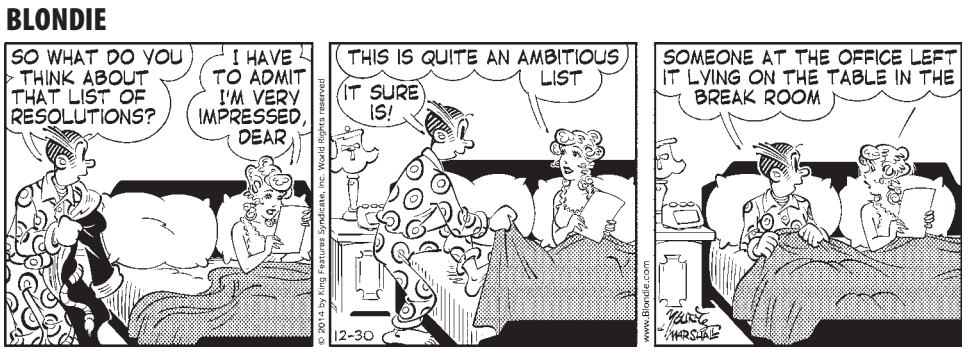
But several Lions said they disagreed with the NFL's interpretation that the he acted in a malicious manner.

"I seen the play and I don't think it was intentional," linebacker Tahir Whitehead said. "Like I said, he's been playing his heart out all year. He hasn't done anything to hurt the team for some time, so I don't look at it as him being the same old Suh or whatever the case people may be saying, But I don't think that's the case at all."

BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE


SO WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THAT LIST OF RESOLUTIONS?
I HAVE TO ADMIT I'M VERY IMPRESSED, DEAR
THIS IS QUITE AN AMBITIOUS LIST
IT SURE IS!
SOMEONE AT THE OFFICE LEFT IT LYING ON THE TABLE IN THE BREAK ROOM
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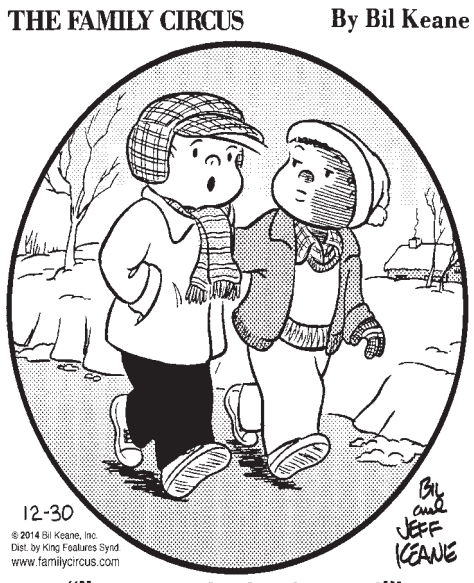
12-30
www.Blondie.com

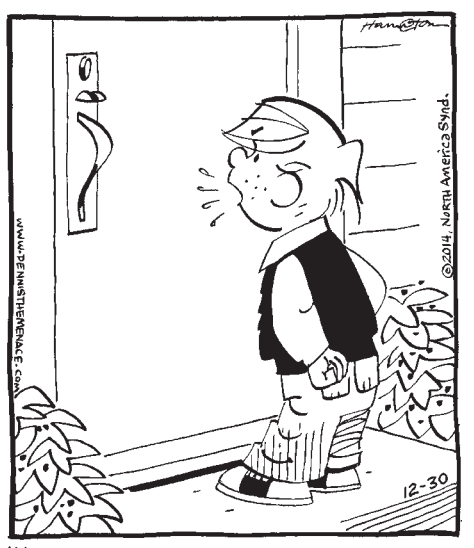
THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



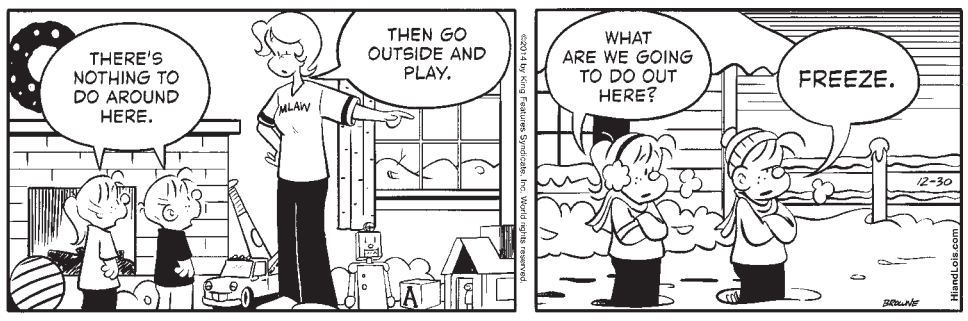
"I'm gonna try to stay up till midnight tomorrow, but I don't really know why."

DENNIS THE MENACE



"YOU SAID YOU WANTED ME TO GET SOME FRESH AIR, BUT ALL YOU REALLY WANTED WAS TO HAVE THE TV ALL TO YOURSELF!"

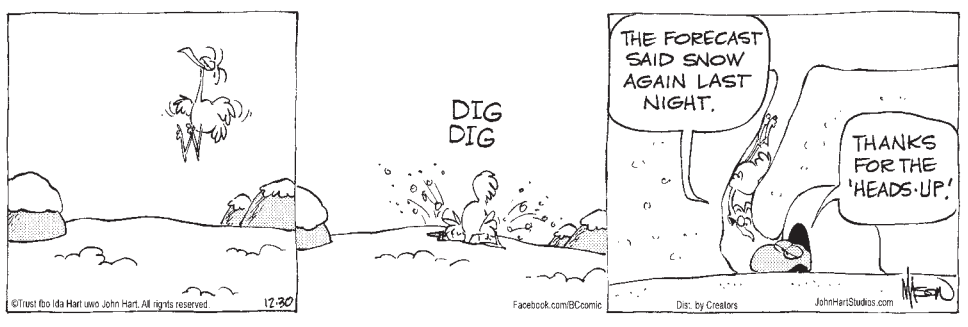
HI & LOIS



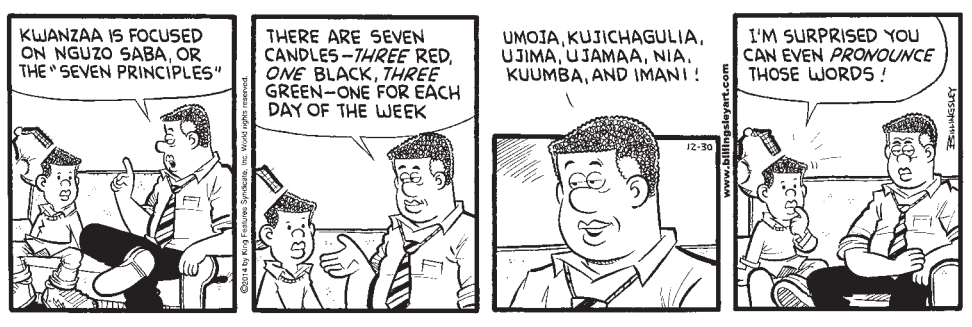
BABY BLUES

ZOE, I KNOW THAT THE BOOK YOU'RE READING FOR SCHOOL HAS SOME GROWN-UP ISSUES IN IT.
YOU DO?
YES. AND I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU CAN ASK ME.
OKAY, I HAVE ONE.
WHAT IS IT, SWEETIE?
SINCE YOU ALREADY READ IT, WILL YOU WRITE MY BOOK REPORT?
babyblues.com

BC



CURTIS


KWANZAA IS FOCUSED ON NGUZO SABA, OR THE "SEVEN PRINCIPLES"
THERE ARE SEVEN CANDLES—THREE RED, ONE BLACK, THREE GREEN—ONE FOR EACH DAY OF THE WEEK
UMOJA, KUJICHAGULIA, UJIMA, UJAMAA, NIA, KUUMBA, AND IMANI!
12-30
I'M SURPRISED YOU CAN EVEN PRONOUNCE THOSE WORDS!
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www.billingsleyart.com

WIZARD OF ID

ZITS

THIS YEAR I RESOLVE TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH YOU GUYS.
REALLY?
THAT'S WONDERFUL, JEREMY!
WE CAN PLAY GAMES, SCRAPBOOK, TAKE WALKS, RESEARCH OUR GENEALOGY...
OR I COULD JUST FLOSS MORE.
I'D GO WITH THAT.
...SHOP, BAKE, DO YOGA...
zitscomics.com
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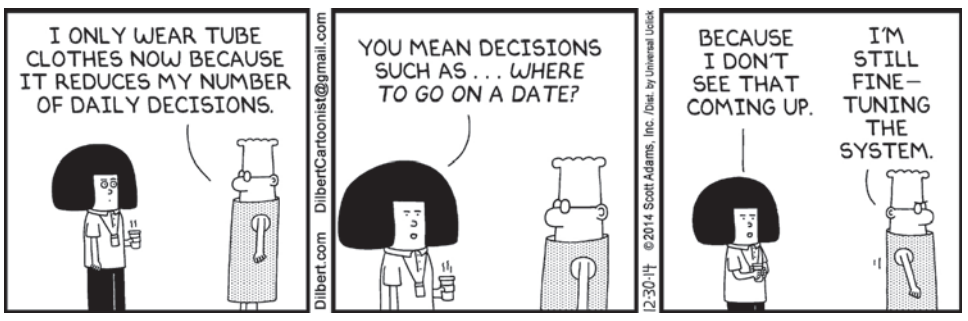
DILBERT


I ONLY WEAR TUBE CLOTHES NOW BECAUSE IT REDUCES MY NUMBER OF DAILY DECISIONS.
YOU MEAN DECISIONS SUCH AS . . . WHERE TO GO ON A DATE?
BECAUSE I DON'T SEE THAT COMING UP.
I'M STILL FINE-TUNING THE SYSTEM.
Dilbert.com DilbertCartoonist@gmail.com
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12-30-14

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

RELAX, LUCKY EDDIE! WE'RE NOT GOING INTO BATTLE UNTIL AFTER THE MEN EAT THE MEAL YOU SERVED!
12-30
©#?! UGH! AWFUL
TELL THEM THAT!
CHRIS BROWNE
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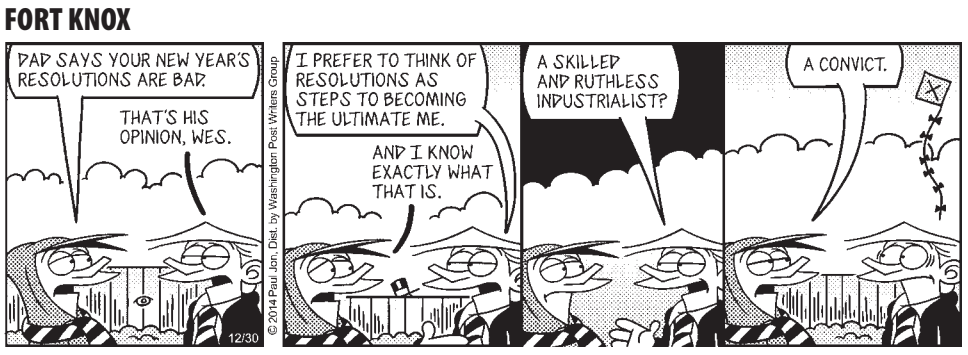
GARFIELD

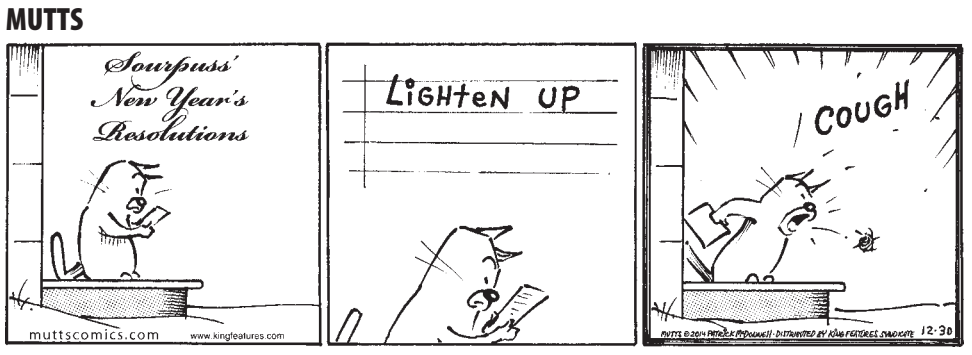
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

HERE'S YOUR POPCORN...
THANK YOU
NO PROBLEM
SAY, WHEN DID YOU SERVING PEOPLE STOP SAYING "YOU'RE WELCOME" AND START SAYING "NO PROBLEM"?
12/30
WHEN YOU OLD PEOPLE STARTED TO BE A PROBLEM
MIKE PEDERSEN

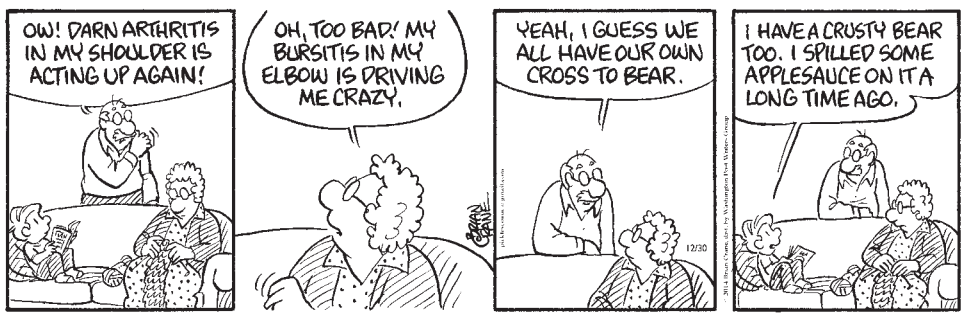
FORT KNOX


DAD SAYS YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS ARE BAD.
THAT'S HIS OPINION, WES.
I PREFER TO THINK OF RESOLUTIONS AS STEPS TO BECOMING THE ULTIMATE ME.
AND I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THAT IS.
A SKILLED AND RUTHLESS INDUSTRIALIST?
A CONVICT.
© 2014 Paul Jon. Dist. by Washington Post Writers Group
12/30

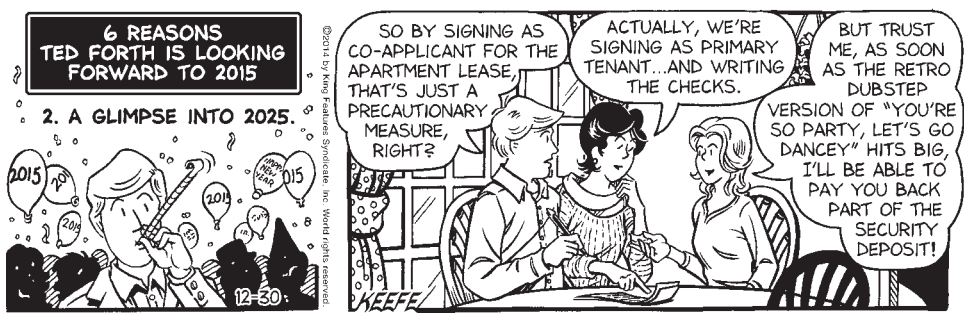
MUTTS



PICKLES


OW! DARN ARTHRITIS IN MY SHOULDER IS ACTING UP AGAIN!
OH, TOO BAD! MY BURSITIS IN MY ELBOW IS DRIVING ME CRAZY.
YEAH, I GUESS WE ALL HAVE OUR OWN CROSS TO BEAR.
I HAVE A CRUSTY BEAR TOO. I SPILLED SOME APPLESAUCE ON IT A LONG TIME AGO.
12/30

SALLY FORTH


6 REASONS TED FORTH IS LOOKING FORWARD TO 2015
2. A GLIMPSE INTO 2025.
12-30
SO BY SIGNING AS CO-APPLICANT FOR THE APARTMENT LEASE, THAT'S JUST A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE, RIGHT?
ACTUALLY, WE'RE SIGNING AS PRIMARY TENANT...AND WRITING THE CHECKS.
BUT TRUST ME, AS SOON AS THE RETRO DUBSTEP VERSION OF "YOU'RE SO PARTY, LET'S GO DANCEY" HITS BIG, I'LL BE ABLE TO PAY YOU BACK PART OF THE SECURITY DEPOSIT!
KEEFE
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Prime Time TV

TUESDAY EVENING DEC. 30

	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30
ABC 7 13 41 57	Wheel of Fortune	Forever "Fountain of Youth" CC		Forever Memories torment Henry. CC		Forever CC	
CBS 2 3 22	Entertain-ment Ton.	NCIS A copycat of the Privileged Killer.		The 37th Annual Kennedy Center Honors Entertainers receive recognition. (N) CC			
NBC 5 8 16	Access Hollyw'd	Chicago Fire "Always" CC (DVS)		Chicago Fire "Wow Me" CC (DVS)		Chicago Fire "Just Drive the Truck"	
FOX 17 28 32	Modern Family	New Girl "Dice"	Mindy Project	New Girl	Mindy Project	Fox 17 News at 10:00PM (N) CC	
PBS 34	Steves' Europe	Sacred Journeys With Bruce Feiler (N)		Sacred Journeys With Bruce Feiler (N)		Frontline (Part 2 of 2) CC (DVS)	
CW 25	Big Bang Theory	The Flash "The Flash Is Born" CC		Supernatural "Girls, Girls, Girls" CC		News	Seinfeld CC
MNT 50	Family Feud	Law & Order: Criminal Intent CC		Law & Order: Criminal Intent CC		Big Bang Theory	The Simp-sons
WCIU 26	Mike & Molly	House of Payne	House of Payne	We There Yet?	We There Yet?	Family Guy	Raising Hope
WHME 46	M*A*S*H CC	Lester Sumrall	Partners in Faith	The Harvest Show News and music.		Paid Program	Joyce Meyer
WSBT 22	:00 WSBT News at 7	ES.TV CC	ES.TV CC	Dr. Phil A new weight-loss plan.		News	Dish Na-tion (N)
A&E	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	:31 Stor-age Wars
AMC	Walking Dead	The Walking Dead "Chupacabra" CC		The Walking Dead "Secrets" CC		The Walking Dead CC	
Animal	Tanked	Tanked CC		Redwood Kings		Treehouse Masters	
BET	Nellyville	Nellyville CC		Nellyville (N) CC		Nellyville (N) CC	
Big Ten	Finale	College Wrestling Midlands Championship.				Finale	Finale
Bravo	Guide-Di-vorce	Real Housewives/ Beverly		Real Housewives/ Beverly		Girlfriends' Guide to Divorce (N)	
Cartoon	Regular	King/Hill	King/Hill	Cleveland	Cleveland	American	American
Cinemax	★★ The Purge	:15 ★★ X-Men: The Last Stand ('06) Hugh Jackman, Patrick Stewart. CC				★★ The Heat ('13) Sandra Bullock.	
CMT	Raising	Hot 20 Countdown		Hot 20 Countdown		Hot 20 Countdown	
CNBC	The Profit	Shark Tank CC		Shark Tank CC		Shark Tank CC	
CNN	OutFront	Anderson Cooper		All Best/Worst		CNN Tonight (N)	
Comedy	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0
CSNC	Pregame	NBA Basketball Brooklyn Nets at Chicago Bulls. (N)					Postgame
Discovery	:00 Moon-shiners	Moonshiners: Outlaw Cuts "Liquid Assets"		Moonshiners A close call with authorities.		Moonshiners "Road to Nashville, Vol. 1"	
Disney	High 2	★ High School Musical 3: Senior Year				Austin	Dog
DIY	Holmes	Holmes Makes		Holmes Makes		Holmes Makes	
E!	E! News	Kardashian		Kardashian		Kardashian	
Encore	The Devil's Own	★★ The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones ('13, Fantasy) Lily Collins. iTV. CC				:15 ★★★ American Hustle iTV.	
ESPN	College Football Belk Bowl -- Georgia vs. Louisville. (N)					College Football	
ESPN2	College Basketball			College Basketball			
ESPNC	Baseball	Little League Baseball From Aug. 21, 2014.				Little League	
Family	5:30 ★★★ The Hunger Games			★★ The Proposal ('09) Sandra Bullock. A woman pretends to be engaged to evade deportation.			
Food	Chopped	Chopped		Chopped		Chopped	
Fox News	Record	The O'Reilly Factor		★★★ Killing Lincoln ('13) (P).			
Fox Sports	NBA Basketball: Pistons at Magic				Pistons	Pistons	UFC
FX	Mike & Molly	★★ Step Brothers ('08, Comedy) Will Ferrell, John C. Reilly, Richard Jenkins.				★★ Step Brothers ('08)	
G4	Soup	Soup	Soup	Wrecking	Wrecking	Wrecking	Wrecking
Golf	Golf			Golf			
Hallmark	Best C'mas	★ Matchmaker Santa ('12, Romance) Lacey Chabert, Florence Henderson.				The Middle CC	The Middle CC
HBO	REAL Sports	★★★ The Grand Budapest Hotel ('14) Ralph Fiennes.			:45 ★★ Mama ('13, Horror) Jessica Chastain. CC		
History	Revela	Revelation: End		Revelation: The End of Days (N) CC			
HGTV	Fixer	Fixer Upper CC		Fixer Upper CC		Hunters	Hunt Intl
Learning	Couple	The Little Couple		The Little Couple (N)		Little and Looking	
Lifetime	★ Killers	★★★ G.I. Jane ('97, Drama) Demi Moore. (P). CC					
MSNBC	Hardball	All In With Chris		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word	
MTV	Pregnant	Real World		Real World		Real World	
NFL	NFL Total	Rewind	Rewind	Rewind	Rewind	A Football Life	
Nick	iCarly	Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se	Prince	Prince
NGEO	The Leg	The Leg	The Leg	The Leg	The Leg	The Pioneers (N)	
Oxygen	:25 Bad Girls Club: Redemption		BGC: Re-demption	:15 Bad Girls Club: Redemption		:10 Bad Girls Club: Redemption	
Showtime	:15 ★★★ The Perks of Being a Wallflower ('12) CC			Inside the NFL (N) CC		Sebastian Maniscalco: Embarrassed?	
Spike	Ink Mas	Ink Master CC		Ink Master CC		Ink Master (N) CC	
Starz	★★ Scary Movie 4 ('06, Comedy) Anna Faris. iTV. CC			★ Grown Ups 2 ('13) Adam Sandler. iTV. CC			Spider-Man 2
SyFy	:00 Apocalypse L.A. ('14, Hor-ror) Justin Ray, Ali Williams.			★★ Volcano ('97) Tommy Lee Jones. Earth-quakes and lava ravage Los Angeles.			
TBS	Seinfeld CC	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Ground Floor (N)	Big Bang Theory
TCM	Beneath Planet	★★★★ Topkapi ('64, Suspense) Melina Mercouri, Peter Ustinov. CC				:15 ★★★ Imitation of Life ('59)	
TMC	★ Alex Cross	★★★ Monster ('03, Biography) Charlize Theron, Christina Ricci. CC				★★★ Double Jeop-ardy ('99) CC	
TNT	:00 Castle	Castle "Pandora"		Castle "Linchpin"		Castle	
Travel	Hotel	Hotel Impossible		Hotel Impossible (N)		Bizarre Foods	
TV Land	Walker, Tex. Ranger		FamFeud	FamFeud	Raymond	King	King
USA	Law & Or-der: SVU	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Benched (N)	:31 Benched
VH1	:00 ★★ Beauty Shop			Bye Felicia! (N)		Suave	Felicia!
WGN-A	Funny Videos	★★★ The Family Man ('00, Romance-Comedy) Nicolas Cage, Tea Leoni, Don Cheadle. CC					How I Met

Getting second pneumonia vaccine is now recommended

DEAR DOCTOR K: I'm 70 years old. I already had a pneumonia vaccine, back when I was 65. At my checkup last week, my doctor said I need to get another one. Why?

DEAR READER: I always like to hear that adults are staying up to date with their vaccinations, as you did when you received a dose of the PPSV23 (Pneumovax) vaccine at age 65. Pneumovax helps protect against pneumonia caused by one common type of bacteria, called pneumococcus.

Pneumonia caused by pneumococcus bacteria can make people very sick, very fast. I know: It happened to me.

Without treatment, the pneumonia can become severe. The bacteria can also spread into the bloodstream or can cause meningitis, a serious infection of the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord.

Now, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are advising adults age 65 and older to get a second vaccine to prevent bacterial pneumonia. The second vaccine, PCV13 (Prevnar 13), is expected to prevent many additional cases of pneumonia.

The PCV13 vaccine is not "new." It has been included in childhood vaccinations for several years. But it is new for adults.

The CDC recommends a single dose of PCV13 for anyone who is older than 65. If you have the option, the CDC says it is best to get the PCV13 before the PPSV23. If you are getting the PCV13 first, wait a year between the two vaccines. If, as in your case, you have already received the PPSV23 vaccine, you can still get the PCV13 vaccine.

Dr. Anthony Komaroff

Vaccines are important for avoiding infection. But these vaccines protect only against specific bacteria.

There are many other things you can, and should, do to reduce your risk of catching pneumonia caused by other bacteria and viruses. These measures will also protect you against a cold, the flu and many other infections.

The best way to protect yourself from infection is to wash your hands often with soap and warm water. Rub your hands together for a full 20 seconds. If you don't have access to soap and water, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Stay away from people you know are sick. If you are sick, stay home to avoid infecting others. At home, avoid kissing, hugging and sharing utensils with someone who is unwell.

When I caught pneumonia due to pneumococcus, I hadn't received the vaccine – because I was not old enough. I was feeling great when I went to bed. When I got up the next morning, however, I felt very tired. When I looked in the mirror, I looked white as a ghost. I felt hot and had a high fever. I took myself to the emergency room and my blood pressure was very low: I was in shock.

Fortunately, prompt treatment turned me around and I was back in action a few days later. But I came close to dying.

When it came time for me to get the vaccine, I surely did. I don't want that to happen ever again.

Dr. Komaroff is a physician and professor at Harvard Medical School. To send questions, go to AskDoctorK.com, or write: Ask Doctor K, 10 Shattuck St., Second Floor, Boston, MA 02115.

Bilingual grandkids will gain broader mental development

DEAR ABBY: "Left Out in Florida" (Sept. 2) feels it is inconsiderate of her daughter-in-law to speak only her native language (not English) with her children in front of their grandparents. You advised that the mother should speak English in this situation.

My son attends a bilingual immersion school, and I have experience with this issue. I have attended lectures about raising bilingual children.

It is extremely difficult to pass on a language other than English to kids living in America. As the children grow, they will be increasingly drawn to English. The most successful families are those who do exactly what the mom in the letter is doing. They speak only their native language with their children and are very persistent about it. This is the recommendation of the experts in the field.

What should also be happening is translation for others when necessary. Ideally, there is a level of support from family and friends who understand what a worthwhile, yet difficult, task this is. Grandparents don't need to understand everything that is said, and their job is to speak English with the youngsters so they become truly bilingual.

Bilingualism is an incredible gift to give a child. It goes beyond just learning another language. It broadens mental development, thought patterns and world perspective. It must be done during childhood while the brain is still pliable, and continue until adulthood or the language will be lost.

Jeanne Phillips
Dear Abby

These parents obviously understand the value of what they are doing. I hope the grandparents will support it. – Bilingual Mom In Oregon

DEAR BILINGUAL MOM: Thank you for lending your insight. I heard from others who, like you, have firsthand knowledge on this issue:

DEAR ABBY: My son also married a woman from another country. She has spoken only her native tongue to my granddaughter from day one. My son speaks English to his daughter. My daughter-in-law speaks English to me.

I care for the little girl three days a week. She's 4 and completely bilingual. I thank my lucky stars that she has this opportunity. And I'm glad for her other grandparents, who do not live in this country or speak English, but can communicate with her. I don't worry that they're secretly talking about me. "Left Out" should be grateful her grandkids have this huge advantage. – Jean In Millersville, Md.

DEAR ABBY: I wish you had suggested to "Left Out" that she and her husband try to learn the language of their grandchildren. It's not difficult to learn a few foreign conversational phrases, or even be able to carry on a coherent conversation using free or inexpensive tools available at the library or online.

Of course, in order to do that, they have to want to reach out and make the effort. Perhaps if they did, the daughter-in-law might feel a little more welcoming and less distant.

Ever since my grandkids started attending a bilingual school, I have been studying to try to keep up with them, and so have the other grandparents. Communication is a two-way street! – Judi n Elgin, S.C.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Crossword

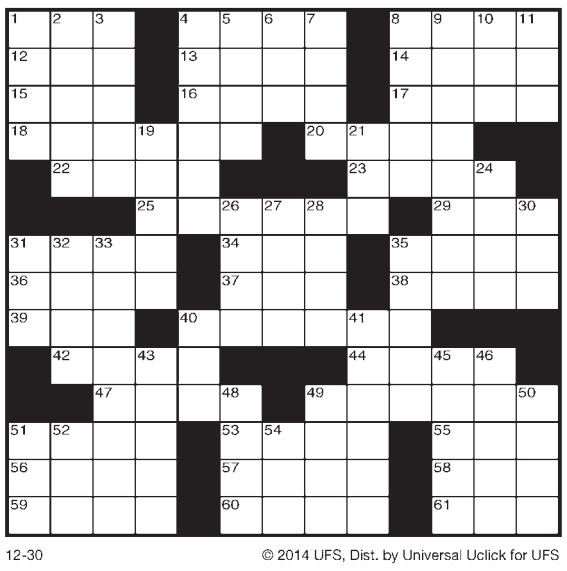
ACROSS
1 — rally
4 Cracked
8 — fu
12 NW state
13 Give up
14 Rightmost column
15 Ad — (wing it)
16 MTV watcher
17 Information
18 Cream-filled pastry
20 Viking name
22 Bullring bull
23 Slimy vegetable
25 Munchies
29 Chatty alien
31 Aware of
34 Ernesto Guevara
35 Galileo's home
36 Hayloft locale
37 Fix, as an election
38 Aroma
39 Rite answer? (2 wds.)
40 Ends
42 Jai —
44 Norway's capital
47 Soft metal
49 Glacial epoch (2 wds.)
51 Pub pints
53 Strongly advise
55 Percent ending
56 Rochester clinic
57 Big cat
58 Aunt or bro.
59 Recipe meas.
60 Traditional learning
61 Almost-grads

DOWN
1 Carpet thickness
2 Royal decree
3 Picasso's name
4 A piece of the —
5 Boo and hiss
6 Lime drink
7 Gamblers' mecca
8 Eastman invention
9 Not a scaredy-cat
10 Party fabric
11 Cookie-selling org.
19 Pyro-maniac's work
21 Spanish article
24 Plus
26 Realty unit
27 "Wool" on clay sheep
28 Barrels
30 Distant
31 Kyoto sash
32 Zip
33 Streetcars
35 Oater extras
40 Government org.
41 When mammals became dominant
43 Fable writer
45 Refuges
46 Lustful looker
48 Yawn-provoking
49 Borodin prince
50 Ocean dwellers
51 Oz. or tsp.
52 Test tube's place
54 2016 Olympics city

Answer to Previous Puzzle

D	O	T	E		A	I	R		A	T	M	S
E	L	S	A		T	O	N		T	H	A	I
R	E	P	S		R	U	S	H	H	O	U	R
	O	S	I	R	I	S		E	E	R	I	E
			E	T	A		D	I	N			
H	O	R	S	E		P	U	R	S	E	D	
A	B	I	T		D	E	N	S		P	I	E
G	I	N		V	E	E	S		J	E	A	N
	E	G	G	I	E	R		K	E	E	L	S
			R	A	M		C	A	R			
S	T	E	E	L		T	R	Y	S	T	S	
M	A	D	E	S	U	R	E		E	R	A	S
O	P	E	C		F	E	W		Y	O	G	A
G	E	N	E		O	K	S		S	T	A	N

Want more puzzles?
Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com



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Jumble

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TUMHO

FORFE

CAPTIM

YATNOB

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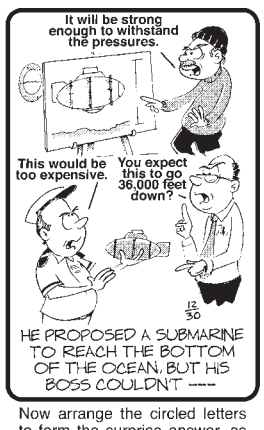
Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app


It will be strong enough to withstand the pressures.
This would be too expensive.
You expect this to go 36,000 feet down?
HE PROPOSED A SUBMARINE TO REACH THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN, BUT HIS BOSS COULDN'T ----

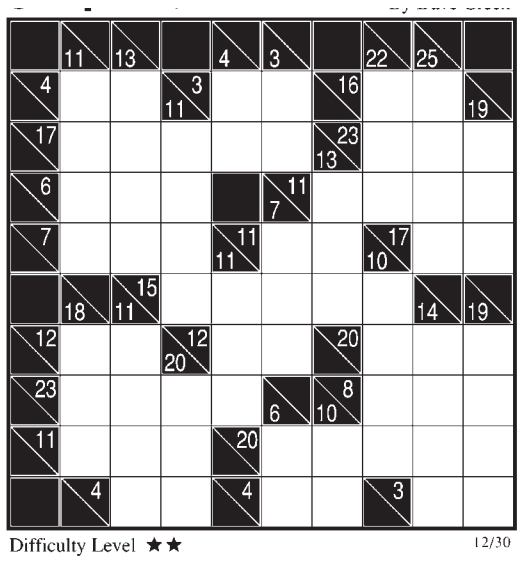
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: MOVIE KAYAK COWARD SKIMPY
Answer: Yogi and Boo-Boo were taking karate lessons and Yogi was impressed with his — SIDEKICK

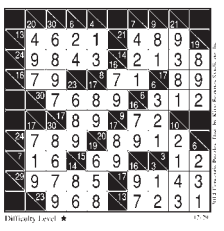
Kakuro



Difficulty Level ★★ 12/30

How to play: Numbers above the slash are across clues; numbers below the slash are down clues. The goal is to enter digits 1-9 in the white cells to add up to the number clues. You cannot use any digit more than once when adding up to a clue.

Answer to previous puzzle



Bridge

Ronnie Shakes, a stand-up comedian who died in 1987, said, "After 12 years of therapy my psychiatrist said something that brought tears to my eyes. He said, 'No hablo ingles.'"

After declarer went down in this small slam, he might have said, "No contaba con doce" – I did not count to 12.

What should declarer have done to try to make six spades after West led the diamond king?

North was right to raise his partner's one-spade response to two spades. Then, though, South should have temporized with a three-club rebid. North would probably have continued with three no-trump, denying four-card spade support and promising a diamond stopper.

After that, South should have invited a slam with four no-trump. Note, however, that six spades is the only small slam that can be made -- although it is very lucky.

At the table, declarer was so bothered by the lack of a fourth trump in the dummy that he never gave the contract any thought and drifted down.

If he had asked himself which 12 tricks he could have won, he would have seen four top spades (he needed trumps 3-3), two hearts, two diamonds, three clubs and a club ruff in the dummy.

South takes the first trick with his diamond ace, leads a spade to dummy's queen, returns a club to his jack, ruffs his low club in the dummy, cashes the spade ace, plays a heart to his king, cashes the spade king (drawing trumps), and leads a diamond toward dummy's jack. Whew!

North 12-30-14
♠ A Q 4
♥ A J 6 3 2
♦ J 8 6 3
♣ 8

West
♠ 10 8 7
♥ 9 2
♦ K Q 10 9 5
♣ 7 4 3

East
♠ J 9 2
♥ Q 10 8 7
♦ 4
♣ Q 10 9 6 5

South
♠ K 6 5 3
♥ K 4
♦ A 7 2
♣ A K J 2

Dealer: North
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
		1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♦ K

Sudoku

Difficulty: 3 (of 5)

		3		4			2	
	7	2	1			8		
					3	9		
			7	8		1		
7	3					5		
4					5			6
6	1	7			9			
	4							2
9			3		8	4	6	

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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

4	6	9	1	5	3	8	7	2
7	1	8	6	4	2	3	9	5
2	5	3	9	7	8	1	4	6
3	2	5	4	1	6	7	8	9
6	8	1	7	2	9	4	5	3
9	4	7	3	8	5	2	6	1
1	9	4	2	6	7	5	3	8
8	3	2	5	9	4	6	1	7
5	7	6	8	3	1	9	2	4

German-American National Congress, Inc.

D.A.N.K., Inc.

Chapter 13

Deutsch-Amerkanischer National-Kongress

What's Happing this coming year AND MORE...

Calendar 2015

Date	Event	Time
FRI FEB 6	**Fish Fry**	**6-8 PM**
SUN FEB 15	Membership Meeting	2 PM
FRI MAR 6	**Fish Fry**	**6-8 PM**
SAT MAR 14	Concertina-St Paddy's Kitchen Open Noon-6pm	11AM-9PM
SAT MAR 28	Spring Dance Eddie Korosa & The Boys From Illinois	6-11 PM
SAT APR 4	Easter Egg HunT Bring Dessert (members only kids/grandkids)	2 PM
FRI APR 10	**Fish Fry**	**6-8 PM**
FRI MAY 1	**Fish Fry**	**6-8 PM**
SUN MAY 17	Membership Meeting	2 PM
FRI JUNE 5	**Fish Fry**	**6-8 PM**
SAT JUNE 27	Concertina Weekend Kitchen Open Noon-6pm	12PM-10PM
SUN JUNE 28	Concertina Weekend Kitchen Open Noon-6pm	12PM-9PM
FRI JULY 10	**Fish Fry**	**6-8 PM**
SUN JULY 12	Picnic-Food-Games Prizes-Bring Dish to Pass	1 PM
FRI AUG 7	**Fish Fry**	**6-8 PM**
SUN AUG 23	Membership Meeting	2 PM
FRI SEPT 4	**Fish Fry**	**6-8 PM**
SAT SEPT 19	Early Oktoberfest Eddie Korosa & The Boys From Illinois	6-11 PM
FRI OCT 2	**Fish Fry**	**6-8 PM**
SAT OCT 17	Oktoberfest Virgil Baker & Just 4 Fun	6-11 PM
SAT OCT 24	Oktoberfest Mike Schneider Band	6-11 PM
FRI NOV 6	**Fish Fry**	**6-8 PM**
SUN NOV 8	Membership And Election Meeting	2 PM
SUN NOV 15	Fort Custer Battle Creek	2 PM
FRI DEC 4	**Fish Fry**	**6-8 PM**
SUN DEC 6	Kid Christmas Party (members only kids/grandkids)	2 PM
FRI DEC 11	Christmas Party Potluck (Adult Members Only Bring wrapped gift for game)	6 PM

PLEASE NOTE:

Fish Fry's the doors open at 5:30PM Band Plays 7-10

Dance/Oktoberfest Doors Open 6PM Band 7-11PM

Open Wednesday 6-9PM Food Available

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For more Information call the:
D.A.N.K. Haus.....(269) 926-6652
Open Every Wednesday 6:00 PM-9:00 PM

www.dank13.org

The Herald-Palladium

CLASSIFIEDS

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Saturday & Sunday 7am-12:30pm

monster

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$475 Mo. w/ $475
sec. dep. Rent includes all utils and
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LEGALS

LEGALS

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF BERRIEN

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO:
2014-0810-DE-M

Estate of : Corinda
Jean Herndon
Date of Birth: April 21,
1944

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Corinda
Jean Herndon, who
lived at 1806 Lakeview
Avenue, St. Joseph,
Michigan 49085, died
October 27, 2014.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that
all claims against the
estate will be forever
barred unless presented to Dana C. Humes,
named personal representative or proposed
personal representative, or to both the probate court at 811 Port
Street, St. Joseph, MI
49085 and the named/proposed personal representative
within four months after
the date of this publication of this notice.

12/24/2014

Dana C. Humes
2367 Fountain Lane
Stevensville, MI 49127
(269) 759-9316

Passaro, Kahne &
Taylor Law Offices,
P.L.L.C.
Ashley Stephens
P78873
685 Main Street
Benton Harbor, MI
49022
(269) 983-0325

PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF BERRIEN

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO:
2014-0780-DE-N

Estate of : Dorothea F.
Smith
Date of Birth: February
15, 1929

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent,
Dorothea F. Smith, who
lived at 2727 S.
Lakeshore Drive, #A2,
St. Joseph, Michigan
49085, died September
25, 2014.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that
all claims against the
estate will be forever
barred unless presented to William Bertram
Smith III, named personal representative or
proposed personal representative, or to both
the probate court at 811
Port Street, St. Joseph,
MI 49085 and the
named/proposed personal representative
within four months after
the date of this publication of this notice.

12/24/2014

William Bertram Smith
III
2724 Vinings Oak Dr.
Atlanta, GA 30339
(404) 401-6667

Passaro, Kahne &
Taylor Law Offices,
P.L.L.C.
Lori M. Thompson
P57022
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The successful candidate will have good grades in Math & English and be computer literate – ideally in MS Office, accounting and database packages. Additional language a plus.

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HOROSCOPE

By EUGENIA LAST

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30

Don't be concerned if your path goes in a new direction. There is plenty to gain if you are open to suggestions. The help and support you receive along the way will encourage an outcome that will be worth your time and energy and will bring you great satisfaction.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Love and romance are looking good. Spend time with the people who mean the most to you, and make lasting memories with them. Don't let stress hinder the evolution of important relationships.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Wait until you are able to get the truth about someone's feelings for you. Don't be demanding or get angry, or it will have a negative influence on how things turn out.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Stop imagining how you would like your future to be and start taking action to make your dreams come true. Education and networking will help. Don't let insecurity hold you back.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Stand your ground. Someone may try to disrupt your plans or change your mind about something you feel strongly about. Travel delays will try your patience.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Romantic relationships are in a high cycle. Make special plans for two. A short vacation will refresh and revitalize you, as well as improve your personal life.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Be wary; you may have a hard time keeping a secret. You will damage a friendship by saying the wrong thing at the wrong time. Be sensitive to other people's feelings.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) A chance encounter at an event or social gathering will have an amazing impact on your future. This is a great time to begin or strengthen your love connection.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Make the most of your generosity and good will. Get out with friends or spend time shopping for something that will lift your spirits. A happy outlook will lead to greater popularity.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) If you are in need of a diversion, spend time enjoying a cultural or sporting event in your community. Travel opportunities look favorable if you make arrangements now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Money troubles will surface. Someone close to you will not be on your side regarding a big expenditure or investment. Friends or neighbors will be able to offer helpful advice or information.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) A problem with an older individual is apparent. A casual friend will surprise you with news. If you listen carefully, you will notice a double meaning to what's being said.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Your free-spirited, carefree attitude will shock those who don't know you well. Enjoy yourself, but don't do anything that will jeopardize your relationship with someone special.

LEGALS

Keeler Township
Notice of the synopsis of the December 2, 2014 regular meeting held at the Keeler Township Hall.
Motion approved to adopt the minutes of November 5, 2014.
Motion approved to adopt the minutes of November 12, 2014.
Motion approved to pay all bills as audited.
Motion approved to renew the police contract with Van Buren County.
Motion approved to get Gilmore Avenue certified by the Van Buren County Road Commission as a county local road.
Motion approved to hold a special meeting on December 11, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.
Motion approved to change the board of review date to December 10, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.
Motion approved to switch insurance to Hartleb Agency to write insurance for the Muncipal Property and Liability Program with EMC.
Motion approved to switch insurance to Hartleb Agency to write insurance for the Volunteer Fire Sickness and Accident Policy with VFIS.
Motion approved to take out insurance for Township Board Members for AD&D coverage.
Motion approved to accept the PA116 application for Berrybrook Investment LLC.
Motion approved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.
Carl F. Davis, Clerk
Keeler Township

KEELER TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TO: Residents of the Township of Keeler and other interested parties.
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing before the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Township of Keeler, 64121 Territorial Road West, Hartford, MI 49057, Van Buren County, Michigan, will be held at the Keeler Township Hall, on January 20, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. To consider the application of Randy & Monika Reimers pertaining to Section 3.33 D, Nonconforming Lots, Uses, and Buildings, Keeler Township Zoning. The property is located at 93762 CR 690, Dowagiac, MI 49047, more fully described as follows: Map #372, Class: 401, Lake Residential, Property I.D. #80-12-032-096-00, Van Buren County.
PLEASE BE NOTIFIED that you are invited to attend the hearing and to protest your opinions or position concerning the subject of this hearing. If you are unable to attend the hearing, you may send a letter stating your opinion or position to: The Zoning Board Of Appeals, Keeler Township, 64121 Territorial Road West, Hartford, MI 49057. Letters must be received by January 20, 2015.
NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that application or petition describing the action or relief being sought and the Township of Keeler Zoning Ordinance are available for public inspection at the Township Hall during normal business hours, on Wednesday's from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. You may contact the Zoning Administrator, Allyn Anthony at 63806 90th Avenue, Hartford, MI 49057 or by calling 269-424-5427, if you have any questions concerning the application for the nonconforming request.
Carl F. Davis, Clerk
Keeler Township

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF BERRIEN

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO:
2014-0753-DE-N

Estate of : Olive Elizabeth Strouse
Date of Birth: July 15, 1923

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Olive Elizabeth Strouse, who lived at 5058 N Watervliet Road, Watervliet Twp., Michigan 49098, died September 16, 2014.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Rebecca Marcia Strouse, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 811 Port Street, St. Joseph, MI 49085 and the named/proposed personal representative within four months after the date of this publication of this notice.

12/24/2014

Rebecca Marcia Strouse
5058 Watervliet Rd
Watervliet, MI 49098
(269) 277-4805

Passaro, Kahne & Taylor Law Offices, P.L.L.C.
Ashley Stephens
P78873
685 West Main Street
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
(269) 983-0325

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOUND

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